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COL. HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA SIR NRIPENDRA NARAYAN BHUP BAHADUR, G.C.I.E., C.B., A.D.C., MAHARAJA OF COOCH BEHAR.

Frontispiece.

THE
COOCH BEHAR STATE
AND ITS
LAND REVENUE SETTLEMENTS

COMPILED BY

HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI, B.L.

SETTLEMENT NAIB AHILKAR, COOCH BEHAR

WITH AN INTRODUCTION

BY

RAI BAHADUR CALICA DOSS DUTT, C.I.E.

DEWAN OF THE STATE



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INTRODUCTION.

When the subject of preparing a report on the resettlement of the State was under discussion, I thought it would be useful for future reference to append to it information regarding the country and its people; their social customs, religion, education, agricultural pursuits and trade; and the past and the present administration of the State. About this time I happened to read Mr. (afterwards Sir) Charles Elliott's Report on the Settlement of the District of Hoshangabad in the Central Provinces; this report contained very interesting and comprehensive accounts of the district and was a very useful work. In the *Imperial Gazetteer* and in *Aitchison's Treaties* there are only short accounts of Cooch Behar. Under the auspices of Maharaja Shibendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur, Munshi Jay Nath Ghose prepared a Bengali history of the State, which was subsequently translated into English by the Rev. R. Robinson; but as the Munshi was not conversant with the English language and had no access to English records, his book is incomplete; it does not, moreover, deal with events which happened after 1846. Captain (now Major-General) T. H. Lewin, Deputy Commissioner of Cooch Behar during 1875-76, published a short account of the State; this book unfortunately is out of print.

2. Thinking, therefore, that the preparation of a book, containing an account of Cooch Behar and its Land Revenue Settlements, on the lines of the report of Sir Charles Elliott, would not only remove a real want but would prove of great advantage in future, I reported the matter to His Highness the Maharaja Bhup Bahadur who was pleased to approve of my proposal, and under orders conveyed in his office letter No. 279, dated the 26th June 1895, Babu Harendra Narayan Chowdhury, Naib Ahilkar, who had acquired considerable experience by working in all the Sub-divisions of the State, and holding charge of the Settlement Department for a long time, was considered to be eminently fitted to undertake the work under my supervision.

3. The book has been divided into four parts, which have again been sub-divided into chapters and sections. The four parts are,—I. Geography and Natural History; II. General Condition of the People; III. History and Administration; and IV. Survey and Settlement. Such books and records, as were available, bearing on these subjects were placed at Babu Harendra Narayan's disposal. It is not necessary to give a list of these books and records here, as

reference has been made to them in the book. One striking feature of the publication is its maps, plans and photos. These have been included under instructions of His Highness the Maharaja Bhup Bahadur, and with the exception of the platino-type photo of His Highness, which was obtained from Messrs. Thacker, Spink and Co. of Calcutta, they have been all printed in the office of the Surveyor-General of India, to whom my acknowledgments are due for the satisfactory execution of the work. It is not necessary to dwell on these severally ; yet I may, in passing, call attention to those maps which exhibit at a glance the density of population, the comparative proportion of waste lands and cultivated areas and the extent of sub-infeudation in the different parts of the country ; of the photos special mention may be made of the picture of His Highness appearing at the frontispiece, the Palace and its drawing rooms, the Maharaja's Insignia, the Jubilee Tower, the typical villager at his home, the cultivator at his plough, and the Mech and the Garo.

4. It is not my purpose to review the accounts given in the different parts of the book, as they were mostly written in consultation with me. I shall notice only a few important points.

5. There are no records containing full and reliable informations regarding the reigns of the several Maharajas, who ruled the State up to the end of the eighteenth century. But so far as we can gather from different sources, it may be safely affirmed that, excepting some of the more important States in Rajputana, there are few States in India which can boast of a more remote antiquity than that of Cooch Behar, and that the present ruler of the principality comes of a stock which is one of the oldest among the ruling families of the country. Chandan established the kingdom of Cooch Behar in 1510 and brought many petty chiefs of Kamrup under subjugation. He was succeeded by his step-brother Biswa Sinha in 1522. The latter extended his conquest to places near Gour and made the Deva and the Dharma Rajas of Bhutan acknowledge his supremacy and pay him tribute. By far the most powerful of the kings of Cooch Behar was, however, his son Nara Narayan, surnamed Malla Narayan. He invaded Gour and, after defeating the Moghul Governor, included within his kingdom all the country as far as the Ganges. He also conquered Assam and reduced to submission Kachar, Manipur, Sylhet and other countries. The extent of his kingdom is roughly shewn in the map facing page 232 of the book. A glance at this map will at once show how it comprised almost the whole of Northern Bengal, Assam and Bhutan,

and extended to the coast of the Bay of Bengal in the east. But after Maharaja Nara Narayan's death the prosperity of the kingdom gradually began to decline. Assam and the other provinces on the left bank of the Brahmaputra, and Bhutan on the north shook off their allegiance, and the Moghuls extended their conquest and reduced the kingdom nearly to its present limits. The Bhuteas never forgot the defeats they had suffered before; they gave much trouble from time to time and tried to interfere with the internal affairs of Cooch Behar.

6. There were dissensions in the State a short time after the accession of Maharaja Dhairjendra Narayan, the thirteenth king, and the Deva Raja of Bhutan could easily cause him to be seized and carried off as a prisoner in 1770. This led to further complications till at last the Maharaja's party applied to the British Government for aid. The connection of the State with that Government thus originated in 1772 and the treaty, particulars of which are given in Chapter VII of the book, was concluded in the following year. Different interpretations were subsequently given to some of the clauses of the treaty, and the Nazir Deo, who was the head of a branch of the Maharaja's family, claimed some extraordinary rights. Messrs. Lawrence Mercer and John Lewis Chauvet were, therefore, appointed Commissioners by the Governor-General in 1788 to enquire into the affairs of Cooch Behar; after making full enquiries they submitted an elaborate report. But still discussions regarding the rights of the Maharaja continued. The Governor-General in Council was at length pleased to revise the policy towards Cooch Behar. The decision was set forth in Chief-Secretary Mr. Adam's letter of the 24th February 1816 in the following terms:—

"On the whole the resolution which the Governor-General in Council has now formed, is to abstain from all interference, except in the form of advice and representation, in the unlimited management of the affairs of Cooch Behar, and to restrict the powers of the Commissioner to the exercise of diplomatic functions only."

The Agent to the Governor-General for the North-Eastern Frontier was afterwards in charge of the political relations with the State. Colonel Jenkins, who was Agent from 1834 to 1860, did much good by his conciliatory attitude.

7. After the death of Maharaja Narendra Narayan, his son, the present Maharaja Nripendra Narayan, was placed on the *Guddee* in 1863. As he was aged only 10 months at the time, Colonel J. C. Haughton, Governor-General's Agent, North-Eastern Fron-

ier, was appointed as Commissioner in charge of the administration f the State. The Commissioner was directly under the Government f Bengal, and when he took charge the Governor-General's Agent was relieved of his duties as regards this State.

8. Before the time of Colonel Haughton the administration of the State was in a deplorable condition. This subject has been fully dealt with in Chapter XII. Colonel Haughton was the man best fitted for introducing reforms in every department. Being invested with ample powers, he put down abuses with a strong hand and reorganised the different offices in the State. When the Second Bhutan War broke out, he was assisted by a Deputy Commissioner. Sir Richard Temple visited Cooch Behar in 1875; he acknowledged the services of Colonel Haughton and his subordinates in a resolution recorded by him in the following terms:—

"In the first place there seemed to be an earnest spirit pervading the administration, showing that the British officers, who have, during the minority of the Raja, supervised the management of the State, must have endeavoured in an anxious, almost an enthusiastic, way to promote its welfare. All this is greatly owing to the zeal, considerateness and forethought of Colonel Haughton, whose services have been cordially acknowledged by the late Lieutenant-Governor. In every direction I seemed to perceive signs of sincere efforts, not only for the prosperity of the Raja and his family, but also for the welfare of those on whom the prosperity of the Raja himself must depend, namely, the great majority of the people.

"I have noticed with commendation the native gentlemen, heads of the several departments. Indeed, one of the principal merits in the administration lies in the selection of a body of really excellent native officers trained in the best official schools."

9. In the second Bhutan War the troops of Cooch Behar under Captain, afterwards Colonel, Hedait Ali proved themselves very useful in 1864 and 1865. After the close of that war the Bhutan Duars were annexed to British India; Cooch Behar thus became conterminous with British Territory on the north. This put an end to Bhutea raids, and a great reduction was made in the Cooch Behar forces.

10. Since the instaliation of the present Maharaja, the Government of Bengal have continued to be in charge of the political relations with the State. The Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division has, however, been appointed *ex-officio* Political

Agent for the purposes of Chapters IV and V of Act XXI of 1879 (Foreign Jurisdiction and Extradition Act).

11. The figures for population have been brought down in the book to the Census of 1891. Since then the results of the Census of 1901 have been published. The population of the State, according to this Census, is 5,66,974 souls, of whom 3,01,382 are males and 2,65,592 females. The population has thus decreased by 11,894 souls since 1891. The decrease is chiefly due to an unusually severe epidemic of cholera in 1891, just when the census was being taken. It is also partly due to emigration. The number of deaths caused by the cholera epidemic, which followed the Ardhodoya Joga of 1891, was very large. The value of land has increased largely in some parts of the State ; it is but natural that some under-tenants of lower grades and some people having no lands should go to the Duars where they can obtain lands at more advantageous terms from Government. On the other hand, there was immigration into the State from Rungpur and other adjoining districts. Of the total of 5,66,974, 14,060 represents the urban population of the State in the Municipal towns of Cooch Behar, Dinhata, Mathabhanga and Haldibari, and the remainder, namely, 5,52,914, the rural population of the country.

12. The number of literate persons has increased, being 35,273 against 25,531 in 1891 ; that of the literate in English, which was 664 in 1891, has come up to 1,766.

13. The subjoined table shows the population of the different Sub-divisions in 1901:—

Name of Sub-division.	Area in square miles.	Number of occupied houses.	POPULATION.			Number of houses per square mile.	No. of persons per square mile.	No. of persons per occupied house.
			Males.	Females.	Total.			
Sudder ..	309	25,848	65,207	56,402	1,21,609	84	394	4·7
Mathabhanga ..	345	26,864	73,871	66,312	1,40,183	78	406	5·2
Dinhata ..	270	28,937	75,948	67,952	1,43,900	107	533	4·9
Mekhligunj ..	194	15,076	46,732	41,112	87,844	78	453	5·8
Tufangunj ..	189	14,565	39,624	33,814	73,438	77	336	5·0
Total ..	1,307	1,11,290	3,01,382	2,65,592	5,66,974	85	434	5·0

14. Within a short time of his appointment as Commissioner, Colonel Haughton became cognizant of the abuses which prevailed in connection with the Land Revenue system. The lands were mostly let in farm for short periods to the ladies of the Palace, and the amlas and their friends and relations. The resident Jotedars were oppressed in different ways and many

foreigners gained great influence. Babu Harendra Narayan Chowdhury has, in Chapter I of Part IV of his book, fully dealt with the state of things, as it existed at the time. Colonel Haughton saw that the abuses could not be successfully grappled with until the whole country was surveyed and settled. In this view he secured from Government the services of Mr. O'Donel, Deputy Superintendent of Revenue Surveys. Babu Iswar Chandra Sen, Deputy Collector, was at the same time appointed to take steps in connection with a revenue settlement.

15. In 1870 the Deputy Commissioner was relieved of the settlement work and the services of Mr. W. O. A. Beckett, Assistant Commissioner, were lent by Government and he was placed in charge of the Settlement Department. Five Deputy Collectors were employed under him. After finishing the greater portion of the settlement work and submitting the completion reports for Pergunahs Mekhligunj and Tufangunj, Mr. Beckett left Cooch Behar in 1875, when the department was placed under my charge and I submitted the completion reports for the other Pergunahs.

16. There was a good deal of discussion about the rates. After I had joined my appointment here as Dewan in 1869, I had to take part in this discussion. The old prevailing rates were taken as the basis, and the classification was very much simplified. The following rates per Bigha were adopted with the sanction of Government:—

	Rs.	As.
Homestead and garden lands ...	2	8
Bamboo lands	1	2
Other cultivated lands, including thatching grass and small Beels of less than 2 Bighas in extent ...	0	8
Fallow and jungle lands	0	1

17. Though the rates were low, the revenue rose from Rs. 3,64,139 to Rs. 9,38,610, owing to the assessment of large quantities of invalid rent-free holdings and of khas lands included in jotes without lawful authority. It was found that a man to whom 30 Bighas of land had been granted as Lakheraj, actually held 150 or 200 Bighas. Owing to the abolition of the Ijardari system which took place in 1872 under the orders of Sir George Campbell, the then Lieutenant-Governor, the Jotedars, with whom the settlement was concluded, had not to pay any charges on account of *ijardari* and *sharanjami*; the amount of increase obtained by the State did not, therefore, represent the increase which devolved upon them.

The settlement was concluded for a term which varied for the different Pergunahs, but which was to expire with 1883-1884, when His Highness the Maharaja Bhup Bahadur was to assume charge of the State. The term was extended by him for five years after the Installation. Measures were, however, taken for the assessment of *patit* (fallow) lands brought under cultivation since the first settlement ; this settlement was called the Patit Churcha settlement and it increased the revenue by more than Rs. 71,000. The extended period of the first settlement was to expire at the close of 1295 B. S. corresponding with 1888-1889. I reported on the subject of the new settlement as early as 1885, when the two establishments under Babu Gobind Charan Dutt, Deputy Collector, and Babu Raj Krishna Das, L.C.E., Naib Ahilkar, were already engaged in completing the operations connected with the Patit Churcha settlement. His Highness in Council decided that the new settlement should take effect from 1889-90 (1296 B. S.) and "that in view of the fact that the operations, if conducted by the existing establishments, would take at least as long as the interval between 1885 and 1889, such operations should be commenced as early as possible, the existing settlement and survey establishments being retained for the purpose." In March 1886 the Council considered the question of classification of lands. In order to distribute the increase, which was to be obtained, as fairly as possible, and thus to remove all grounds of complaint on the part of the tenants and undertenants, it was thought necessary to classify the Taluks, restore the old classification of cultivated lands into *Awal*, *Doium*, *Soium* and *Chaharam*, and to put tobacco lands under a separate class. In the course of my tours, I had consulted the principal Jotedars in the different parts of the State; my recommendations about classification were based, to a great extent, on opinions expressed by them. The subject of rates was also fully discussed with the people. Major A. Evans-Gordon, the then Superintendent of the State, and I visited the different Sub-divisions, and explained our views at large meetings of Jotedars and Chukanidars. The question was then considered by His Highness the Maharaja Bhup Bahadur at special meetings of the Council, at which Kumar Gajendra Narayan (senior) Bar.-at-law, and Kumar Gajendra Narayan (junior), then Superintendent of Agriculture and Forests, were present as extraordinary members. It was expected that the Kumars would give full expression to the views of the people. The Jotedars employed pleaders to represent them before the Council. Every point was fully considered. We adopted this course and took the

people into our confidence with the object of removing all grounds of future complaint. Other principles relating to the settlement were also considered at these meetings of the Council. The rates sanctioned were:—

Kinds of land.	Rate per Bigha.		
	1st class Taluk.	2nd class Taluk.	3rd class Taluk.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
1. Betelnut land	4 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0
2. Bastu or homestead . .	3 0 0	3 0 0	3 0 0
3. Udbastu	3 0 0	3 0 0	3 0 0
4. Garden	3 0 0	3 0 0	3 0 0
5. Bamboo	1 2 0	1 2 0	1 2 0
6. Tobacco, 1st class . . .	1 8 0	1 8 0	1 8 0
7. Do, 2nd do. . . .	1 4 0	1 4 0	1 4 0
8. Do, 3rd do. . . .	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0
9. Awal	1 0 0	0 14 0	0 13 0
10. Doium	0 12 0	0 11 0	0 10 0
11. Soium	0 9 0	0 8 0	0 7 0
12. Chaharam	0 7 0	0 6 0	0 5 0
13. San or thatching grass land	0 7 0	0 6 0	0 5 0
14. Jala	0 8 0	0 8 0	0 8 0
15. Laik Patit	0 2 0	0 2 0	0 2 0
16. Gurlaik Patit	0 1 0	0 1 0	0 1 0

18. The following principles were also laid down :—

(1.) That rates should be fixed at which the State was to assess the revenue payable for each jote ;

(2). That rates should also be fixed at which the cultivating ryots should pay rents ;

(3). That, as regards future contracts, the parties were to be kept free ;

(4). That no reductions in the jamas already paid by contract were to be made ;

(5). That the difference between the rate for the cultivating ryot and that for the Jotedar was to be apportioned under fixed rules as profit amongst the different classes of middlemen ; and

(6). That a special rule was to be made for the protection of the cultivating Chukanidars ; under this rule the percentage of profit, which such a Chukanidar would have to pay, was to be less than the difference referred to above.

19. The reasons for which the above decisions were arrived at by His Highness in Council, have been fully stated in the report, and it is needless to recapitulate them here. Girds Chowra and Shandara and Bilat Bishguri, as also the Baishchala jotes, had received special treatment on the occasion of the first settlement owing to their backward condition, and following the principles then adopted, a reduction of a fourth of the rates sanctioned for the rest of the State was allowed for them. His Highness the Maharaja Bhup Bahadur was pleased to decide that the term of the resettlement was to be a long one ; it was fixed at 30 years.

20. As has been stated before, the establishments under Babu Gobind Charan Dutt, Deputy Collector, and Babu Raj Krishna Das, Naib Ahilkar, were at first employed in the operations connected with the new settlement. As the work progressed, it was found that great changes had taken place in the holdings since the first settlement, and that the work was heavier than originally estimated. With the object of bringing the operations to a speedy conclusion, two new establishments under Babu Rameswar Pramanick and Moulvie Yaqinuddin were employed. The latter officer, however, resigned his appointment within a short time, and Babu Hem Chandra Bhattacharji was appointed in his place. Babu Gobind Charan Dutt was placed in charge of Pergunahs Lal Bazar and Cooch Behar and Babu Raj Krishna Das of Pergunahs Mekhligunj and Mathabhanga ; while Babus Rameswar Pramanick and Hem Chandra Bhattacharjya were employed in Pergunahs Dinhata and Tufangunj, respectively. The operations in the tracts Chowra, Shandara and Bilat Bishguri, and the Baishchala jotes were subsequently taken up by Babu Harendra Narayan Chowdhury. The new settlement came into force

in Pergunahs Mekhligunj and Lal Bazar from 1889-90 and in the remaining four Pergunahs of Mathabhanga, Dinhata, Cooch Behar and Tufangunj from the following year. In the different tracts specially dealt with it took effect from different years, the latest year being 1899-1900. The control over the work connected with the new settlement having from the beginning been placed in my hand, I had to supervise the work of the different establishments.

21. Babu Harendra Narayan Chowdhury has embodied in his report a mass of tables shewing the results of the new settlement from different points of view. He has also compared the figures of assessed and unassessed lands, as obtained in the resettlement, with those of the original settlement, and explained the discrepancies. I do not think it necessary to enter into these details here. With a view to economy, all the lands in the State were not surveyed in the course of the resettlement operations; the chief work of the field establishments was to revise the classification according to the new rules and to measure holdings in which changes had taken place. The total of the assessed area in the resettlement is 21,23,696 against 21,65,620 Bighas in the original settlement. The decrease is mainly due to relinquishments, to the taking up of land for public purposes and to diluvion. In the first settlement thatching grass (*san*) lands were put in the same class as cultivated lands. In backward parts of the State *san* grows like any other jungle, and has very little value; the amins did not use much discrimination in classifying the *san* lands in these parts, and the result was that there were several cases of over-assessment. This led to relinquishments. The defect was remedied in the new settlement: *San* lands were separately classified; the rate for them was reduced; and such lands only as produced *san* which was used for thatching purposes were classified as *san*.

22. Of the total quantity of assessed land, 67·5 per cent. represents the area of cultivated lands; in 5 per cent. out of this tobacco is grown. Tobacco cultivation is steadily increasing in the State. It is extensively carried on now in Lal Bazar and Mathabhanga, the soil of which is specially suited to the growth of tobacco, and it is being extended to the other Pergunahs. Jute lands have not been separately classified and assessed; it is a known fact that cultivation of jute has also been increasing.

23. The next important subject, which deserves more than a passing notice, is the prevalence of sub-infeudation in the State. So far back as 1875, Sir Richard Temple, the then Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, noticed, during his visit to Cooch Behar, the very large extent to which sub-infeudation existed here. There were

already six grades of under-tenants and there was no limit to the further subletting of land ; Babu Harendra Narayan has shown how the system pressed hard on the actual cultivator and interfered with the prosperity of the country. The matter formed the subject of a correspondence with the Government of Bengal extending over several years, and in 1888 His Highness in Council passed an Act, entitled the Sub-infeudation Act, by which, in accordance with the principles approved of by Government, it was laid down—(*a*) that no land should be let by any person other than the Jotedar, and that to the actual cultivators only; (*b*) that when there was a default in the payment of rent by an under-tenant and a decree was obtained against him, the defaulting under-tenure should lapse unless the claim was satisfied within 30 days from the date of the decree ; and (*c*) that when an under-tenure lapsed, as above, the profit enjoyed by the holder of that under-tenure would be equally divided between the Jotedar and the actual cultivator. The object of the Act was not only to discourage the further subletting of land, but also to materially decrease the number of existing middlemen in course of time, and thus to improve the position of the Jotedar, who was responsible to the State for the punctual payment of revenue, and of the ryot, who actually cultivated the land. In laying down the principles for the resettlement of the State, these provisions were kept in view, and special rules were passed for the protection of the cultivating ryots. Babu Harendra Narayan has furnished valuable statistics connected with this matter in pages 515-540 of his report, from which it will be seen that sub-infeudation increased much in the State during the period between the coming in force of the first settlement and the passing of the Sub-infeudation Act. He concludes his remarks as follows:—

"To sum up : In the most important and comprehensive under-tenures the extent of land in the khas possession of the ryot is the largest in the lowest tenancy ; it decreases as the under-tenure rises in the scale. The average of the land in khas possession of a Chukanidar forms 59 per cent. of his holding and that of a Darchukanidar 77 per cent. ; and of a Dara-dar-chukanidar 86 per cent. At the time of the first settlement these figures were 64, 84 and 93, respectively. The area under khas possession of the undertenant has thus decreased in every Pergunah in the course of the two decades that followed the first settlement of the State. This is attributable to a general increase of sub-infeudation."

24. It is earnestly hoped that the drastic measures, which have been adopted, will lead to a decrease of sub-infeudation and contribute

ultimately to the prosperity of the people. The operation of the Act is being closely watched.

25. The amount of land revenue for temporarily settled estates, fixed in the course of the first settlement, was Rs. 9,23,835. To this an increase of Rs.71,555 on account of the Patit Churcha settlement, and small increases obtained every year by the settlement of khas lands and relinquished jotes, were subsequently added. On the other hand, there were decreases due to relinquishments, diluvion and other causes. Just immediately before the resettlement, the amount of revenue for temporarily settled estates, dealt with by the Settlement Department, amounted to Rs. 9,52,642. This figure will not agree with that for total revenue in the Annual Reports, because in those reports the revenue for Mocurarce mehals and some other estates not dealt with by the Settlement Department was included. It is also to be noted that the Syrat revenue, which is derived from Hâts, Ghâts and fisheries, is also credited as Land Revenue, and that this revenue is not included in the settlement statements.

26. The increase obtained by the resettlement of the temporarily settled estates amounted to Rs. 2,88,418 or 30 per cent. of the former revenue of Rs. 9,52,642. I am glad to be able to state, as the head of the department for collecting revenue, that this increase has not at all pressed hard on the jotedars and their under-tenants. The object of making a detailed classification of land was to distribute the increase fairly over the different parts of the State; this object has been fulfilled. We could give relief to holders of jotes containing large quantities of cultivated land of poor quality by granting reductions in revenue; at the same time we could recover increased revenue from Jotedars holding large quantities of rich land. The care we took in consulting the people at the time of fixing the rates and laying down the principles for the new settlement had a very good effect. Hardly any objections to the settlement were raised, after it had been actually concluded. The Jotedars and their under-tenants took their Terijes, and quietly began to pay the increased revenue and rent. A reference to the schedule of rates will show how moderate they are. The value of land has increased everywhere and cultivation is extending in every direction. The people are prospering, and there is contentment all over the country. The number of revenue sales and that of relinquishments have decreased. There is no difficulty whatever in collecting the revenue. The outstanding balance of land revenue, which used to exceed 4 lacs of rupees at one time, has now come down to Rs. 31,000

There is no doubt this result is due, to a certain extent, to the operation of the new Revenue Sale Act; but still it is certain that the moderation of the new settlement has very largely contributed to it. A considerable portion of the increase obtained by the settlement is spent in works calculated to secure the welfare of the State and its people. A railway has been constructed with a loan from Government, in repayment of which a lac is paid every year; large sums over and above the amount of the loan, have been disbursed from the Treasury for the completion of this work, the capital outlay amounting in all to more than 14 lacs at the close of 1902-1903. The railway has not only proved to be a valuable asset of the State, but it has also connected Cooch Behar with the railway system of Bengal. New roads have been constructed and a permanent annual grant of Rs. 50,000 has been sanctioned for the creation of the Communication Improvement Fund. The great improvement in communications has developed trade and benefited the people materially. A first-grade college and three new high schools have been established, and the number of dispensaries has been increased. As the Khas Tehsil system prevails here, and there are no Zemindars, His Highness has to discharge the responsibilities both of the Government and the Zemindar in Bengal; and as these are fully discharged, the cost of administration is large.

27. When the operations of the first settlement were carried on, every care was taken to record the rights of all classes of tenants and undertenants. The settlement papers showed completely what the right of every man possessing land in the State was. A Terij, signed and sealed by a settlement officer, was given to a holder of land of every grade. It was held to be a document valid in the eye of law, after the expiration of the period allowed for the filing of objections. It made every tenant and undertenant feel secure, and it defined the amount he was to pay for the occupation of his land. In connection with this subject Sir Rivers Thompson, the then Lieutenant-Governor, expressed himself as follows in his speech at the Installation Durbar in 1883:—

"In the case of Cooch Behar, however, the most remarkable progress has been in the development of its wealth and agricutural resources, and certainly looking to the achievements * * * * effected in a detailed settlement of the land and the registration and record of all individual rights in the soil, you have secured results which, in repressing litigation and in establishing fixity of tenure on reasonable rent rates, give the best securities of a prosperous and peaceable peasant proprietary. I urge upon your serious attention the continuous maintenance of that record, as the

charter of the rights of your people in their agricultural possessions, expressing my strongest conviction that a settlement of the land based on moderate assessments, and for periods of sufficient duration to call forth the energies of the cultivating classes in effecting improvement, assures not only the happiness and contentment of the great bulk of the population, but is your best security for their loyalty and attachment in times when troubles come and adversity presses."

28. In the new settlement the record of rights was fully revised and a Terij was given to every tenant and under-tenant, as in the first settlement. Thus, not only were measures adopted for making a fair increase in the revenue, but steps were also taken for securing the interests of the tenants and under-tenants. In the course of his tour, His Highness the Maharaja Bhup Bahadur himself saw how carefully every ryot kept his Terij in his hut. Our settlement records were shown to Sir Charles Elliott, when he visited Cooch Behar in 1893; we explained to him at the time how the papers for the new settlement had been prepared. The following paragraph from my Annual Report for 1893-94, bearing on this subject, is reproduced:—

"Your Highness showed our settlement records to Sir Charles Elliott when he visited the Mahafezkhanah; our maps, Chittas, Khatians and Terijes were all seen. Plots shown in maps were compared with entries in the Chittas. With the object of doing the work connected with the new settlement as economically as possible, we avoided the necessity of preparing new maps and Chittas by shewing the changes, which had taken place since the first settlement, in supplementary Chittas. Maps of the plots in which there had been changes were drawn in the column of remarks. The plan which we had thus to adopt for enforcing economy attracted the special attention of His Honor. All information regarding rates was given. Mr. P. Nolan, Commissioner of the Rajshye Division, who was also present, saw our settlement papers. I was glad His Honor did not express disapproval of anything after his inspection. Under his orders I made over to his Private Secretary a copy of my printed report, dated the 4th September 1888, explaining the principles on which our settlement was concluded and the rates were fixed."

The Government of Bengal afterwards recorded the following remarks in connection with the matter:—

"The Lieutenant-Governor retains pleasant recollections of his visit to Cooch Behar in April 1893, referred to in para. 5 of the

report, and felt much satisfaction at seeing the public buildings and the excellent condition of the town. He also inspected some of the records, especially those connected with the recent settlement, and found them in very creditable order". *Vide* Bengal Government letter No. 1075, dated 10th October 1894 (para. 2), forwarding Cooch Behar Annual Administration Report for 1893-94 to the Government of India.

29. The revision of the record of rights was heavy work. The cost of resettlement amounted in all to Rs. 4,24,716. As fully explained in the book, if the result achieved be remembered, this cannot be considered to be too high. On the whole, I was fully satisfied with the manner in which the different settlement establishments did their work. My acknowledgments are specially due to Babu Raj Krishna Das, L.C.E., who, as Settlement Officer, rendered me valuable assistance. His Highness recognised his good service by increasing his pay and admitting him into the regular cadre of officers.

30. As stated above, the operations connected with the resettlement of the State were begun in 1886, and though the resettlement actually came into force in two of the Pergunahs in 1889-90 and in the remaining four in the following year, the work in all the backward tracts, which had to be specially dealt with, was not completed until 1898-99. Babu Harendra Narayan Chowdhury has, in page 588 of the book, specified the years from which the settlement took effect in different parts of the State. I was anxious to have a complete report for the whole State, and to show in one place the result of the different operations. After the settlement had been concluded everywhere the statements had to be prepared and the results considered. The completion of the book and the printing at the Press here took much time ; there was also delay in getting the maps and photos printed in Calcutta. I mention these circumstances, as it is necessary to give some explanation for the delay which has occurred in submitting the book to His Highness the Maharaja Bhup Bahadur in Council. An advance copy of the book was laid before His Highness, and some alterations were made according to his directions.

31. The book being primarily intended to be a settlement completion report, Babu Harendra Narayan Chowdhury has tried to embody in it as much information as he could, regarding the different settlement operations in Cooch Behar. All this information is very valuable, and will be of great use when the question of the next settlement is considered. Babu Harendra Narayan Chowdhury

has laboured hard and has executed his work ably and in a praiseworthy manner.

CALICA DOSS DUTT,
Dewan, Cooch Behar State.

August 17, 1903.

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Reg. No. 260, Dewan of the Cooch Behar State.—Nov. 09.—300.

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THE COOCH BEHAR STATE.

PART I.

GEOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

CHAPTER I.

GEOGRAPHY.

SECTION 1.

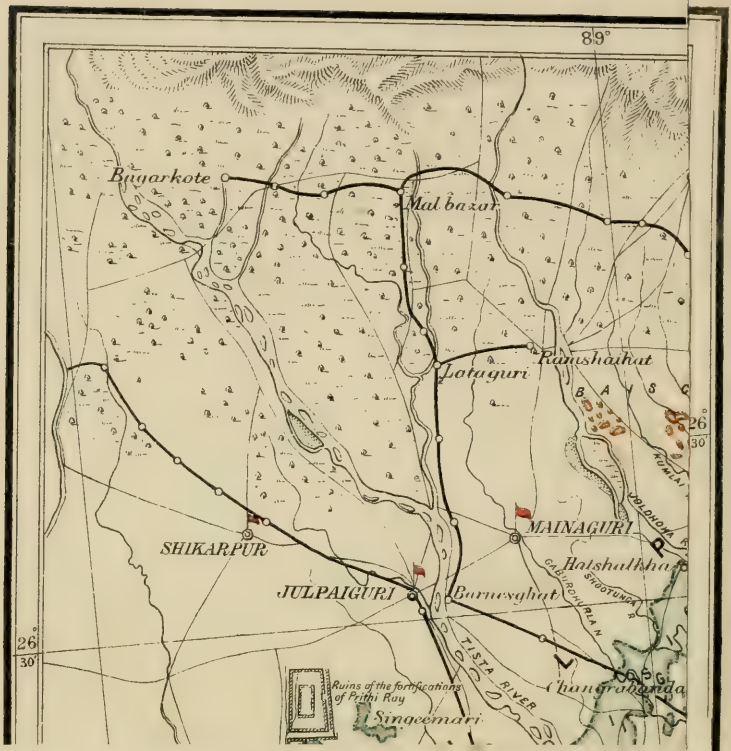
General Outlines.

Derivation of 'Cooch Behar.'

The name *Cooch Behar* is a compound of two words, *Cooch* and *Behar*. The term *Cooch* is a corrupted form of *Coch*, or *Koch*, being the name of a race of people inhabiting a large tract of country in the north-east of Bengal ; and *Behar*, or, more properly, *Vihara*, denotes *abode*, or *sport*. Taking the first sense of the second word of the compound, *Cooch Behar* means the *abode or land of the Koches*. In the second sense, the compound means the *land of sporting or dalliance with the Koches*, and has a mythological allusion to the *vihar* of god Mahadeva with the Koch damsels. In fact the same god is described in mythology to be the progenitor of the present line of rulers of Cooch Behar. The second interpretation of the term, however, ultimately leads to the first, and the proper sense of the name *Cooch Behar*, therefore, is, in either case, *the land of the Koches.*

It literally implies a larger country

The signification of the word *Cooch Behar* points to a larger extent of country than the present small State of Cooch Behar ; for the Koch people is not confined to this State but is found in the neighbouring British Districts as well. The fact is, the territorial extent of Cooch Behar was at one time much larger than what it


89°
Bagarkote
Mal bazar
Lataguri
Ramshaikat
26°
30
SHIKARPUR
MAINAGURI
Hatshalkhola
JULPAIGURI
Barnesghat
TISTA RIVER
Ruins of the fortifications of Prithi Roy
Singeemari
Chunrabanda

THE COOCH BEHAR STATE.

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CHAPTER I.

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This meaning historically correct.

now is. As at present limited, Cooch Behar is a Feudatory State in Bengal in political relations with the British Government. [1]

Situation.

The State of Cooch Behar geographically forms part of the Lower Provinces of Bengal, and occupies a place in their north-east corner. It is about 20 miles south of the Bhutan ranges of the Himalayas, the tract of country lying between the foot of the hills, and its northern frontier being the Western Duars which now form the eastern part of the District of Jalpaiguri. The Brahmaputra, just as it turns south from its westerly course, a short way below Dhubri, is at about the same distance from its eastern borders. It lies between 25° 57′ 40″ and 26° 32′ 20″, north latitude, and between 88° 47′ 40″ and 89° 54′ 35″, east longitude.

Boundaries.

Cooch Behar is bounded on the north by the Western Duars, which form the eastern part of the District of Jalpaiguri; on the east by the Guma Duars, and Pargana Ghurla of the Assam District of Goalpara, and Parganas Gaibari and Bhitarband of Rangpur, the rivers Gadadhar, Sankos, Baguni, and Mara Dudkumar nearly forming the boundary line for a considerable distance; on the south by Chakla Purvabhag, and Parganas Kakina and Kazirhat in the District of Rangpur, and Pargana Patgram in the District of Jalpaiguri; and on the west by Pargana Kazirhat in Rangpur, and Chakla Boda in Jalpaiguri. With the exception of a few miles of the rivers Jaldhaka and Kaljani in the north, the Gadadhar and the Sankos in the east, and the Dharla in the south, the boundary is artificial on every side, and prevents isolation of the State from the surrounding British territory.

Besides the congregated area included within the boundaries given above, there are *chhits* or outlying and detached tracts in the

[1] In his Statistical Account of Cooch Behar, Dr. Hunter has the following regarding the meaning of the term 'Cooch Behar':—"The name 'Cooch Behar' is derived from the Sanskrit *vihara* (Bengali, *bihar*), meaning recreation, especially applied to a Buddhist monastery. The latter is probably the historical basis of the name, as in the case of our Province of Behar. This name, however, is used only by the outside world. The appellation acceptable at the Court of the Raja, who repudiates the theory of a Koch descent, is Nij Behar; the word *nij*, 'own', 'peculiar,' being applied to distinguish the country from Behar proper."—Hunter's Statistical Account of Bengal, Vol. X, page 332.

It is necessary to consider one fact before this meaning can be accepted. The name 'Cooch Behar' is of a comparatively recent origin. In ancient times the country was called Kamrup; or, more correctly, it was a part of the old kingdom of Kamrup. Even during the reign of the last line of kings, the Khens, about four hundred years ago, the country was known by that name. It came to be called *Cooch Behar* after the Koch Kings had come into power in the beginning of the sixteenth century, long after all Buddhist influence had died out in Bengal. The name may not, therefore, have any reference to Buddhism.

neighbouring British Districts, which form part of the State. The principal of these tracts are,— Detached and outlying tracts in British Districts.

(1) The *Baishchala* tracts, comprised within three Taluks named Magurmari, Gosaihat and Gadong, in Pargana Maraghat of the Jalpaiguri District, lying at a distance varying from six to eight miles from the northern frontier near Moranga and Ksheti ;

(2) *Teldhar* formerly known as Gerd Teldhar, forming twelve Taluks, and the *Kotbhajni chhits*, comprising six Taluks, within Chakla Boda, in the District of Jalpaiguri, lying west and south-west of Pargana Mekhligunj, at a distance varying from five to twelve miles from the western frontier near Haldibari ;

(3) The *Patgram chhits*, belonging to Pargana Mekhligunj, situated in Pargana Patgram in the Jalpaiguri District;

(4) *Banshkata chhits*, within Pargana Patgram lying very close to the south-west borders of Pargana Mathabhanga;

(5) The *chhits* in Pargana Purvabhag in the District of Rangpur, very close to the south-east borders of Dinhata, the chief of which are Bashpechai, Dakurhat and Dasiarchhara;

(6) The *chhits* in Pargana Bhitarband in the same district, lying near the eastern borders of Dinhata, and comprising the Taluks Maidam, Gaochulka, and Baghbhunder; and,

(7) *Chhat Bara Laukuthi*, a Cooch Behar Taluk, lying within the Guma Duars in the District of Goalpara in Assam, within two miles from the Baxigunj Bunder near the eastern frontier.

Nor does every bit of land within the general boundaries belong to the State. Like the detached pieces of land of Cooch Behar situated within British territory, there are *chhits* or detached tracts of the neighbouring British Districts lying within the territorial limits of Cooch Behar; but they are neither so numerous nor so large as the Cooch Behar *chhits*. British territory in Cooch Behar.

The outline of the country is irregular; it is pre-eminently so in the south, where the lands of Rangpur and Jalpaiguri (Parganas Bhitarband and Patgram) run up into the State, considerably indenting the boundary line. Its greatest length from east to west, from the borders of Goalpara to the eastern frontier of Chakla Boda, is about sixty-four miles; and its greatest breadth, from the river Dharla below Moghalhat to the Kaljani south of the Buxa Duar near Alipur, is about thirty-three miles. The area of the country, including the detached tracts, is 1,307 square miles. Of the Native States of eastern India, Cooch Behar is half the size of Sikkim, and a little above a third of Hill Tippera. Outline irregular. Cooch Behar compared with Sikkim and Hill Tippera.

The State forms a plain of an almost triangular shape, intersected by numerous rivers, streams and marshes. It is part of the great General aspect and configuration of the country.

basin stretching between the Himalayan range and the District of Bogra, sloping from the north-west in a south-easterly direction towards the Brahmaputra. The country is level and open, undiversified by hills or any large sheet of water. The surface is not, however, a dead level, but, as in Rangpur and Jalpaiguri, rises into gentle swells, some of which remain above water even at the height of floods. The low lands are sometimes only a few inches above the level of the marshes and *beels* which surround them, and are inundated by the first showers of the rains. The people generally select the high lands for their homestead and garden, which are also ordinary fitted for the cultivation of the most valuable crop of the Cooch Behar rayots, namely, tobacco. The low lands are chiefly fit for winter paddy. This last class of land forms about 58 per cent. of the entire surface. The character of the land varies in different parts of the State. The high land preponderates in Pargana Lalbazar, and the low land in Pargana Dinhata. The greater portion of the country is well cultivated, composed of green fields studded with bamboo clumps and orchards, which surround the homestead of every substantial farmer. But tracts of jungle mostly heavy grass and reed are to be seen for the most part in the north-east corner, which abuts upon the Bhutan Duars. There is no forest worth the name; only a small area in Teldhar, and a few other patches of land here and there, have clusters of Sál trees on them. In recent years teak and shishu trees have been largely planted, and long avenues of shishu may now be seen along most of the roads. Patches of brushwood are, however, to be met with in almost every part of the State.

Country level and open.

High land and low land.

Country mostly well cultivated.

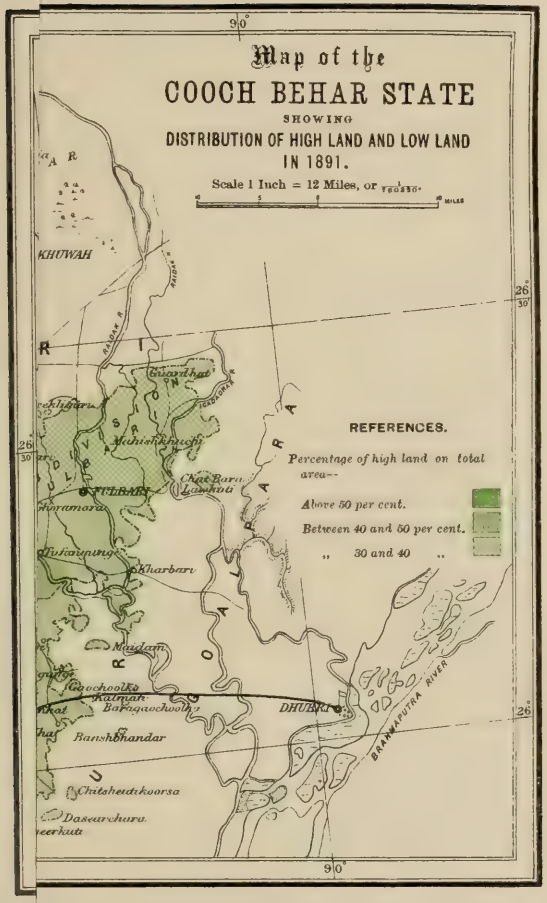
No good forest.

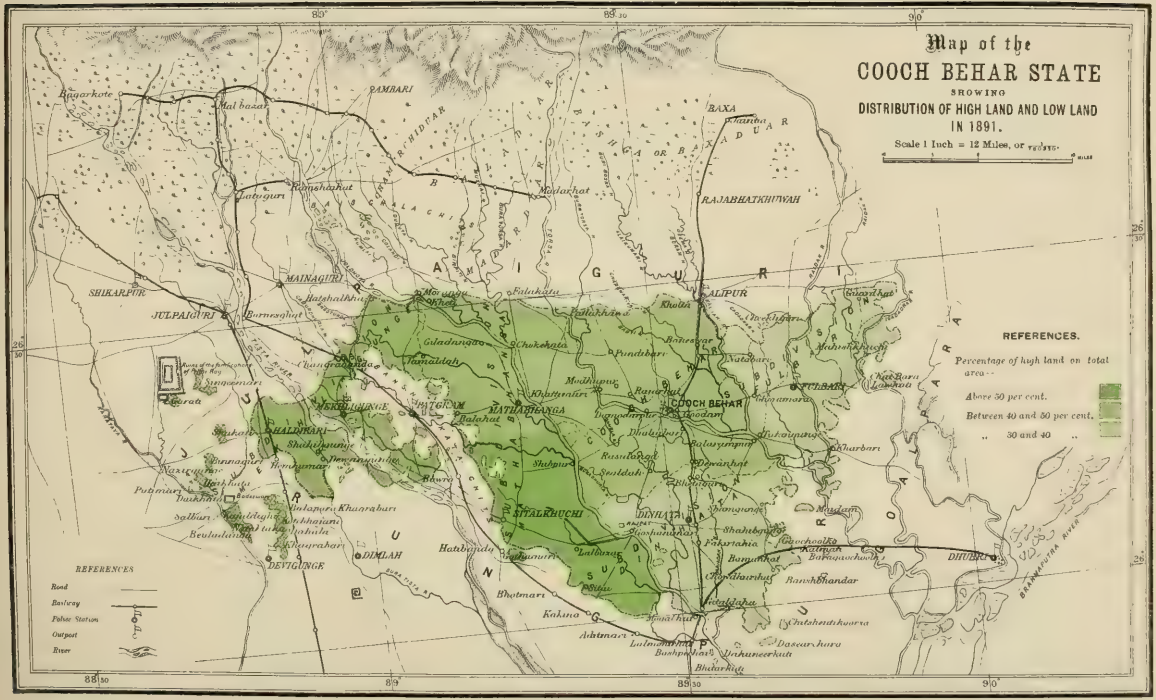
There are very few compact villages in the State of the type of lower Bengal. The farmers generally live apart, each on his own land, surrounded by his own *prajas* or farm servants. When a few such homesteads occur near enough, the whole is termed a *tari*, which is only a nucleus of the Bengal village. The homesteads have sometimes an exceedingly neat and comfortable look, each enclosed in its shady grove of bamboo, jack and mango trees and marked out by tall betel-nut palms with the *pan* or betel-creeper gracefully entwining itself around their grey stalks. The people do not, as a rule, grow orchards away from their dwelling place. Isolated trees or groves may often be seen here and there; but then these unmistakeably mark the sites of deserted homesteads, or point to the hât or market ground. Bamboo, which plays a very important part in the domestic economy of the people, is as extensively grown as it is universally used. Bamboos are very numerous in every place where population has extended.

Very few compact villages.

Homesteads neat and comfortable.

Magnificent orchards and bamboo topes.


Map of the
COOCH BEHAR STATE
SHOWING
DISTRIBUTION OF HIGH LAND AND LOW LAND
IN 1891.
Scale 1 Inch = 12 Miles, or
KHUWAH
Guardhat
Mahishkuchi
Chai Bara
Lankata
Haramara
Kharbari
Mandam
Gaochoolka
Kalman
Dabigaochoolka
Ranshbhandar
Chatsheutkoorsa
Daseurchura
DHUBRI
BRAHMAPUTRA RIVER
REFERENCES.
Percentage of high land on total area--
Above 50 per cent.
Between 40 and 50 per cent.
,, 30 and 40 ,,
90°
26 30



To face page 4

Country, a net-work of rivers.

The country is a net-work of rivers and small streams which appear to have been a great factor in the formation of its soil. Captain Lewin, a late Deputy Commissioner of the State, gives the following theory of the formation of the country:—

"The theory which would seem to recommend itself as probable, is, that at some distant period the ocean broke against the rocky slopes and spurs of the great Himalayan Chain. Down from the great Central Asian plateau poured innumerable streams finding outlet at every gorge and mountain valley of the range; year by year these rivers brought down silt and vegetable debris, and year by year the great delta of lower Bengal rose under the salt waters of the ocean; and as the dry land emerged, so the confluent rivers cut themselves channels through the sand in the dry season; while their floods, rising in the rainy season, annually deposited successive superstrata of fertile silt upon the plains around. Emerging as they do, fresh, vigorous, and turbulent, from their mountain fastnesses, the hill streams which intersect Cooch Behar are intolerent of repression, and year by year change their beds, roaming right and left, cutting new courses, or rushing back into the old channels as accident may direct. No opposition to these fluvial vagaries can be offered by the land: owing its origin to the rivers, it is bent and moulded by them without obstruction."

Course of rivers and their direction from north-west to south-east.

The rivers of Cooch Behar flow in a slanting course from north-west to sout-east. As a rule, they take their rise in the Himalayas, and enter the State from the Western Duars, and, after passing through it, flow into the District of Rangpur on their way to join the Brahmaputra, sometimes branching out in different channels, but very often flowing into each other in their downward course. The banks are generally abrupt, and the beds sandy, mostly with a beach on one side of the stream; gravels are met with in higher latitudes and in some of the big rivers. The rivers are generally tame and shallow in the dry season; they become very turbulent and fierce during the rains. Owing to the vicinity of the rivers to the Himalayan range to which they owe their origin, they are rather inconveniently subject to floods. A little more than ordinary rainfall in the hills is followed by a sudden rise of the waters, which overflow the banks and drown the country for miles around. Crops are often destroyed. Cattle and moveables, and sometimes even the dwelling houses of the poor peasants, are washed away by the rushing waters. The changes in the course of the rivers are, as a rule, effected during some heavy flood, when the loose sandy soil easily gives way to the force of the current. Generally, however, the waters keep within the channel, and sweep along with great rapidity. The ordinary

Rivers shallow and tame in summer and turbulent in the rains.

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Their velocity

mean velocity of the Cooch Behar rivers during the rainy season is about five miles an hour; during floods it often attains ten miles and more an hour.

Rise and fall sudden.

As the rise of the waters is often very sudden, so is the fall abrupt. A couple of sunny days is usually followed by a fall of two or three feet. Navigation becomes very precarious during the rains owing to the treacherous sands which lie concealed under the waters all over the channel. The current, sweeping as it goes, cuts away existing sands and leaves a new deposit at a place where none is suspected. The soil is very loose, being of an alluvial formation, and is easily washed away by the vigorous torrent which the hills pour down upon the plains beneath. This is carried by the waters in their course, and left on that side of the channel which is less exposed to the fury of the current. Alluvion and diluvion are thus constantly going on on a large scale, and sand-banks are numerous near the big rivers.

Navigation dangerous during the rains.

Alluvion and diluvion.

About the end of October the water comes down considerably, and by March the rivers are nothing but tame, narrow, shallow and limpid streams, meandering through the innumerable sand-banks which come into existence after the rains. The water is cool, sweet and refreshing. It becomes muddy and unwholesome during the rains; but in the dry season the bed carries a clear and limpid stream, even the smallest of which furnishes a good and most welcome draught.

Marts on their banks.

River trade.

The rivers generally pass through cultivated areas, and have marts and places of business on their banks. There is a good deal of trade, carried on chiefly by Bengali and Marwari merchants, with Serajguni, Narayangunj, and other marts of Eastern Bengal. As a means of internal communication, the Cooch Behar rivers are not largely used.

Rivers are source of revenue.

Syrats.

Ferries.

These large sheets of waters are a good source of revenue to the State. The rivers, as well as other reservoirs of water above a fixed standard, form Syrat Mehals, which are held directly by the State, and leased out in convenient lots to farmers, usually for a term of three years. When a *char* is thrown up in a river it becomes liable to fresh assessment. The ferries belong to the State, and some of them bring in a good yearly revenue.

Fishes.

The Cooch Behar rivers abound in fish of every description. Sharks are very seldom, if ever, met with. The turtle and the tortoise are numerous. The porpoise or hog-fish is seen in the big rivers, as also the fish-eating crocodile.

Principal rivers of the State.

The principal rivers of the State, to begin from the west, are the Tista, Dharla, Jaldhaka, Torsa, Kaljani, Raidak or Sankos, and Gadadhar. A brief account of them is given in the next section.

SECTION II.

Rivers and Streams.

(1).—THE TISTA AND ITS BRANCHES.

The Tista is the biggest and by far the most turbulent of the rivers of the State. It was at one time the largest river in Northern Bengal, and fed all the rivers and streams which cover the surface of the country as in a net work.

Legend connected with its origin.

The term *Tistá* is a local abbreviation of the Sanskrit word *Tri-srotá*, meaning, having three *srotas* or currents. This is probably because the river once flowed through three different channels at one and the same time, passing more or less water by each of them. The Kalika Puran gives the following account of its origin:—

"The goddess Parvati, wife of Siva, was fighting with an infidel (Asur) whose crime was that he would only worship her husband and not herself. The monster becoming thristy during the combat, prayed to his patron deity for drink; and, in consequence, Siva caused the river Tista to flow from the breast of the goddess in three streams, and thus it has ever since continued to flow."

Sources

The river takes its rise in lake Chalamu in Thibet, and is supposed to have another source below Kanchanjangha in Independent Sikkim. After flowing through Sikkim, it enters the British District of Darjeeling at its north-east corner, and flows through it in a southerly direction till it touches the nothern borders of Jalpaiguri. Here its course is inclined a little eastward, and the river continues in that direction, flowing past the District town of Jalpaiguri, and marking off the regulation part of the Jalpaiguri District (formerly included within Rangpur) from the Western Duars, till it enters the State between Taluks Baxigunj on the west, and Nijtaraf-Mekhligunj on the east.

Course.

Now it flows directly south-east, and passing by Taluks Buxigunj, Khashbas, Par-Mekhligunj, Daripattani, Jharsingeswar, Kharkharia and Andaran Devottar, on its right bank, in its course of 15 miles through the country, leaves Cooch Behar from the southern extremity of Taluks Kuchlibari, and pours into the District of Rangpur by the south-west of Pargana Patgram, through which its course lies until it falls into the Brahmaputra a few miles south of Chilmari. From the frontiers of Sikkim down to its mouth, the river has a course of about 170 miles, 15 of which, as it has already been observed, lies through the State, the remaining two sections of its course, namely, the one through Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri, and the other through Rangpur, being nearly equal. The

Water cool and salubrious

breadth of the bed of the river is about a mile within the State. In fact the width seems to be nearly uniform throughout its entire course on the plain. The bed is sandy with a high bank on one side of the stream, and a shelving beach on the other. Gravels are numerous. The water is cool limpid and sweet, and unlike so many mountain streams, is not in any way injurious to health.

Three different beds.

The history of the course of this erratic river is a history of constant changes in the drainage of Northern Bengal from a very remote age down to the beginning of the present century. There are now three different beds of the river in existence; one lies outside the State, near the western borders west of Taluk Bara Haldibari; and the second, on which once stood two important marts, named Bibigunj and Shahebgunj, and which has still the large Dewangunj Hat on its right bank, marks the eastern boundary of the old Rahimgunj Pargana. These two, however, are now dead, and are called the Mara Tista and the Bura Tista, respectively. The third is the existing channel of the river flowing below Mekhligunj. The river appears to have flowed through the three beds in five different epochs, and occupied the middle one below Dewangunj in two of these.

Dadai, the first channel.

At a date of remote antiquity, it cannot be ascertained when, the river had the same course as is shown in Mr. O' Donel's Revenue Survey map of 1868-70, and which is the main channel at present. This bed was originally a mere creek, and was called the Dadai. Subsequently the present Bura or old Tista came into existence; and it was a considerable river, flowing by the east of the old Rahimgunj Pargana in this State. The date of this change is equally uncertain. It branched off from below Taluk Bibigunj, and, flowing south, left the State near South Samilabas. It then passed through Baruni in Rangpur, and after making a curve around Dimla, joined the Dadai near Ghoramara, and kept on flowing in the old channel till it fell into the Brahmaputra within the District of Rangpur, about 10 miles south of the present junction. This was, however, not the only channel of the old Tista. It also fed the stream Ghagot which passed below the town of Rangpur, and fell into the Karatoya (Atrai) a little above Shahjadpur in the modern District of Pabna.

Bura Tista, the second channel

Major Rennell's survey—Third channel.

When, however, Major Rennell made his survey of Rangpur in 1779, the main channel of the river lay about 5 miles further west; but how or when this shifting had taken place is involved in obscurity. Bifurcating from a point a little below Fakirgunj, a place south of the modern town of Jalpaiguri, the river flowed south by the western frontier of the State within a mile of Taluk Bara Haldibari. The channel was not so old as that of the Karatoya which it intersected below Debigunj, and, in so doing, passed

Karatoya.

a portion of its waters through that river. The Karatoya, thus augmented, continued to flow in its south-easterly course, passed the town of Goraghat, and fell into the Atrai at a place called Bera, now an important river port in East Bengal. The united river then flowed on under the name of Hurasagar, and, after a course of about 15 miles, fell into the Padma, a short way above Jafergunj in District Dacca.

Atrai.

To revert to the main channel. From Devigunj the Tista flowed south for about 15 miles till it poured into the bed of a small river called Atrai, a little north of Kumargunj in Dinajpur. From this point the united river bifurcated into two channels, one of which flowed south-east under the name of Atrai, and, passing through the Chalan Beel in the District of Pabna, and mixing with the Hurasagar, fell into the Padma from the north-west near Jafergunj; while the other, under the name of Punarbhaba, flowing south, passed the town of Dinajpur, and joining with the Mahanada at Rohanpur, ultimately fell into the Ganges at a place called Godagari, opposite new Bhagabangola, about 20 miles north of Murshidabad.

Punarbhaba.

Revival of second bed in 1787.

The bed in the east of Rahimgunj had not, however, been wholly abandoned in the meantime. A small current still passed by this, and fell into the Brahmaputra as before. A very heavy and disastrous flood, however, took place in 1194 B.S., corresponding with 1787, which affected the Districts of Jalpaiguri and Rangpur, and the western portion of the State. An unusually heavy rainfall in the hills created a tremendous upheaval of the waters of the Tista, which ran down frantically upon the plains beneath. Sands brought down from the north suddenly choked up the main channel, and the waters, madly overflowing the banks, naturally sought the old declivity again. The old channel near the western frontiers of the State was thus practically forsaken, and the still older bed of the river, in the east of the old Rahimgunj Pargana, came to be re-opened. The bed in the west was not, however, at once forsaken, and in 1827 we find that both the channels were navigated, and tolls on boats used to be collected by the State at the Kasiabari and Dewtikhata Ghats in the western bed, and also at some Ghats in the eastern bed. The present old Tista, that is, the revived channel of 1787, after leaving the State at the south-east corner of Taluk South Samilabas, made a curve from north to south-east, having Dimla on the concave side of the bed, and joined the Dadai, as noticed above, at Ghoramara, a mart in Kakina. When Dr. Buchanan visited the country in 1805, the old Tista was the main channel, and had a position pretty much the same as now occupied by it.

Re-opening of first and oldest channel, about 1820.

This state of things even was not destined to last long, and another shifting of the river again took place in the first quarter of the present century. Sometime between the years 1805 and 1840, probably at the close of the second decade, the Bura or old Tista gradually lost its waters, and the Dadai, or the oldest and eastern-most current of the river, came to be the main channel. In Mr. Tassin's map of 1840, the Dadai is shown as having considerably augmented in bulk, and having been developed into a broad and powerful river. Gradually both the channels in the west died away, and the present bed of the Tista, lying below Mekhligunj, came to assume the proportions it has now got.

No tributary or branch in the State.

The Tista has received no river within the State, nor has it sent out any from it.

Saniajan and Khutamara.

A small stream, called the Shaniaján, formed by the union of a stream of the same name with another called Khutamara within 2 miles of the north-west frontiers, in Pargana Bykuntapur of the Jalpaiguri District, enters the State from the north-west in Taluk Bhotbari, within a mile of the Jalpesh and Mekhligunj Road, and, after a course of about 20 miles in the east of the Tista, almost wholly through the Cooch Behar territory, exits into Patgram from the south-east corner of Taluk Kuchlibari. It then flows through Patgram for about 4 miles, and falls into the Tista near the borders of Kakina and Patgram.

Sutee Nadi.

The Shaniaján has a branch called the Sutee Nadi, which issues out of it from a point in Taluk Phulkadabri, and, flowing in a south-easterly course of about 9 miles through the State, pours into the parent stream in Taluk Kuchlibari, before the latter enters Patgram.

The river not fordable.

The Tista is fordable at no point within the State; in fact it carries deep water throughout its course on the plains. It is crossed by three ferries near Mekhligunj, of which the one in the middle, situated at the crossing of the Emigration Road, below the Sub-divisional Town of Mekhligunj, is the most important.

Mekhligunj, a river port.

The only place of importance, standing on the Tista, is the Sub-Divisional town of Mekhligunj. The mart commands a large tobacco trade carried on by Burmese merchants, who buy tobacco here, and send it down by boats to Kaligunj in Rangpur, where the leaves are sorted, and then re-shipped for the marts of Burma.

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(2.)—THE JALDHAKA AND CONNECTED RIVERS.

Jaldhaka called De Chu in Bhutan.

The river next in importance is the Jaldháka, also called *Manshai*, *Singimari* and *Dharla*, in different parts of its course. The Jaldhákà, or *De Chu*, as it is called by the hillmen, takes its rise in the Bhutan hills, and, after a course of about 45 miles

through Independent Bhutan, then the frontiers of Bhutan and Darjeeling, and lastly through the Western Duars, during which it is greatly augmented by receiving the rivers *Moortte* and *Diamá*, enters Cooch Behar territory as a mighty river at the north-west corner of Taluk Saulmari in Pargana Mekhligunj. It then flows east for about five miles along the northern frontiers, forming the boundary between the State and the Chamarchi Duars, before it takes a turn to the south-east, and penetrates into the State through Taluk Dhulia Baldiyahati. The river flows on in that direction for seven miles more, and receives the Gilandi from the left near the Tapsikhata Ghat in Taluk Giladanga. About two miles east of this place the current turns north-east, and, while doubling the northern point of Taluk Indrerkoti, is joined by the Duduya from the north-west on its northern bank. Five miles down this point is the Daibhangi, or the junction of the Mujnai or Manshai, which falls into the Jaldhaka from the north in Taluk Ruidanga. From below the Chokhkátá Ghat, near the mouth of the Mujnái, the river changes its name into *Manshái*, from the name of the feeder, and takes a southerly course, till it comes to Taluk Khaterbari near the Sub-Divisional town of Mathabanga. From this point it flows south-east, and, leaving the dry mouth of its old bed on the left in the south of Taluk Matiyarkuti, receives on the right the Shutunga below Manabari, and the Dharla south of Maghpálá, in the east of the Shibpur Baura Hat. The river now turns due south. The name Manshái is not retained long ; and about three miles down the confluence of the Dharla, the name is changed into *Singimari*, from the fact of the river having flown through a small stream of that name. It then takes a sweep eastward from the south of Taluk Chát Salbári, and breaches the *Gar* or rampart of Raja Kanteswar near Taluk Latabari. Now it turns south, and effects an exit through the southern rampart by causing a second breach through Taluk Takimari. Here the course is turned to the east, lying at a short distance of the Gosanimari temple on the north bank. Shortly after, the river flows south from the north of Taluk Nutanbas, and, engulfing the ruins of Barabangla, enters the Rangpur District from the south of Taluk Dhamailgach, only, however, to re-enter the State after a mile in the east. Here the Singimari is joined by the Torsa, locally called the Dharla, and the united stream flows by the north east of Taluk Daribas, and north of Jaridhurla Nadi, under the name of Dharla, and finally goes out of Cooch Behar from the South of Taluk Bhoram Payasthi in its way to join the Brahmaputra near Bagua.

Receives the Gilandi.

The Duduya.

The Shutunga and the Dharla.

The name is changed into Singimari.

And finally int) Dharla.

The river has a big channel. It has a course of about 60 miles through the State, with a breadth of four to five hundred

Character of bed

yards on an average. Like other hill streams in this part of the country, it becomes very shallow in the hot weather months, but frantic and furious during the rains. It is not navigable for boats of 50 maunds burden above the junction of the Mujnái, and becomes fordable at many places higher up, between the months of December and May. Boats of 200 maunds burden generally come up as far as Mathabanga, those of a less capacity going higher up by the Mujnái to Falakata in the Western Duars, near the northern frontiers. Jute and tobacco are the chief articles of trade exported down the river; rice, salt and earthen-wares being the chief of the imported articles. Cooch Behar rivers are very seldom used for internal communication, and the Jaldháká is no exception to the general rule.

The Jaldhaka of later date than most of its present tributaries.

The Jaldháká, as the name implies, for it means the force of water, or dashing waters, appears to be of a later origin than the smaller rivers which fall into it, or through which it passes. As already noticed, the river is called Manshai, Singimari, and Dharla, in different parts of its course, from the fact of its having flowed through the beds of rivers having those names. If it were the main stream from the beginning, this would not happen. This river, therefore, must have come into existence by the waters rushing down from the hills, cutting a channel through the country, and receiving, as it flowed along, the waters of the rivers, already in existence. Each of the rivers Mujnái or Manshai, Singimari and Dharla, was an independent river as will be noticed later on.

Changes in the course of the Jaldháká.

Like the Tista, the history of the course of the Jaldháká is a record of frequent changes. On entering the State the river formerly passed further north below Moranga and Ksheti, which were places of importance in the beginning of the present century, and reached the present channel north of Taluk Káchá-

The Kumlai.

kháwá, where the Kumlái now falls into it. This Kumlai, a small stream, being an offshoot of the Diana, originally met the Jaldháká outside the State, at the north-west corner of Taluk Tengnamari. When, however, the main river subsequently receded to the south, and came to occupy the present position, the old bed, which was kept alive by the current of the Kumlái, came to be known after the tributary. The modern Háts of Moranga and Ksheti stand on this old bed, which becomes navigable to large boats during the rains.

Change near the Gilandi and Duduya.

Some change has taken place in the course of the river between the mouths of the Gilandi and the Duduya, although the present bed appears to have been the oldest channel. The river had originally flowed this way, and lain within 500 yards of the

old Giladanga Road. Some time before the survey of Mr. J. J. Pemberton in 1858-59, it swept north-east from the mouth of the Gilandi, and, leaving the old bed dry, passed by the south of Taluk Phulbari. The land between the two beds was mostly of new formation, having evidently been the bed of the river in different times, and now forms the Taluk Phulbaribas, the word *bas* denoting a *Char* or Payasthi land. Before Mr. O'Donnel's survey of 1868-70, the river again flowed back into its old channel here, the abandoned bed in the north having been gradually raised, and denominated Taluk Phulbari Dewanbas. Only lately a slight change has taken place in its course below the Mathabhanga Bunder. So late as 1892, the river used to make a double curve east of that town, by the south of Taluk Angerkátá Khaterbari, and again by the north of Taluk Angerkátá, and resume its original direction below Matiyarkuti. There was then a piece of low land some 200 yards long, south of the Emigration Road in the east of Taluk Baraibari, running up towards the north-west from the right bank of the river. In the year 1892 there was a very heavy flood, and the greater portion of the Sub-Division was sub-merged ; portions of the Emigration Road, east of the town, were washed away, and three large gaps were caused, through the second of which the waters cut a narrow channel down to the low land noted above. Only a narrow slip of land now intervened between the bed of the river on the north of the road, and the northern extremity of the channel cut by the waters. Next year this neck of land was severed,—and the waters rushed through that *Nala* from the north-east of the Bunder, and avoided the curve below Taurikátá. Through this channel the river now flows. The old bed below Taurikátá has not, however, become quite dry ; it passes a small stream called the Dolong which falls into the deserted curve of the old channel from the north in Taluk Dolongerkuti.

The Dolong

The most important of the changes, however, took place within the first half of the present century in that section of the river which is called the Manshái. The southern section of the river, now called Singimari, did not formerly pass through the country as shewn in the Revenue survey maps. From the south-west of Taluk Matiyarkuti, some two miles below Taurikátá, the river formerly used to flow east in a serpentine course of about ten miles across six miles of the country, through the bed of the Manshai, before it joined the Torsa in the south-east of Taluk Kalpani. The united stream then flowed east under the name of Manshái. In fact, in the whole of its course from the north of the Chokh-kata *ghat* downwards, it followed the bed of the old Manshai, which, in

Change after Major Rennel's survey.

its upper section above Chokh-kata, goes by the name of Mujnai, as already noticed. Some time in the beginning of this century, probably during the heavy flood of 1820, the channel in the east of Matiyarkuti was forsaken, and the waters, pouring southward, intersected the Dharla below Shibpur, and, in the north of Kanteswar's rampart, fell into a small stream of the name of Singimári, and the Jaldhaka came to be called the Singimari here after that small stream. This course of the river is first shown in Mr. Pemberton's Map of 1858-59, and must have come into existence between that date, and the date of Major Rennell's map, namely, 1779.[2] After flowing through the city of Kanteswar, the river passed east of Sagardighi, and doubling Barabangla in an eastward curve of 3 miles, resumed a south-easterly course from the east of Taluk Gabuya, and finally fell into the Dharla near Dhamailgach. In its southward sweep from Mátiyarkuti, the river passed through several Taluks leaving a portion of each Taluk on either bank. Thus there are often Taluks of the same name on both banks of the river, clearly testifying to the fact that formerly there was no river between them. The curve near Barabangla has disappeared in recent years owing to a charge in the course of the river, and the Taluk Chát Barabangla, which was once situated on the right bank of the river, has, in consequence, been shifted on to the left.

The next point of the river where a change took place lies near Taluk Daribas close to the southern frontiers After the opening of the new channel through the Singimari, the current used to flow by the west and south of Taluk Daribas, and then go north-east below Gitaldah, whence it turned south-south-east in a curve to enter the District of Rangpur. During the rains of 1280 B.S., corresponding with 1873, the river made an inroad eastward from the point of its confluence with the Dharla below Dhamailgach, and, tearing out the loose soil from the north of Taluk Daribas, cut a cross channel by the east and south-east of

[2] Dr. Buchanan Hamilton, who visited Rangpur and the southern parts of Cooch Behar in 1808-9, does not speak of the Jaldhaka as flowing south along the borders near Moghalhat. In his map of the city of Kamatapur (Gosanimari), the Singimari is represented as a small stream, threading its course through the city, and having a bridge over it in the southern rampart. The Jaldhaka or Manshai had not thus flowed this way up to 1809 (*Vide* map attached to Martin's Eastern India, Vol. III, page 426). According to the testimony of some old men who were consulted on the subject, the date of the opening of the Singimari would appear to be sometime between 1820 and 1825.

that Taluk by flowing through a depressed area, and joined the old bed at the south-west corner of Taluk Gitaldah. There was a big sandy *chur* to the south of Daribas when the river flowed that way. Since the change noticed above, the condition of this land has improved, and it has become populated, and has been brought under cultivation. It now forms Taluk Jari Dharla Nadi. The river has subsequently shifted from below Gitaldah also, and there is now a big *chur* in its place. Considerable diluvion is, however, constantly going on here as well as in other places and it will be no wonder if the river takes quite a defferent course a decade hence.

Tributaries of the Jaldháká.

The Jaldháká recieves on its right bank the following rivers, beginning from the north :— The Shutunga, Dharla, and Khutamara or Gidari ; and on its left bank, the following :—The Kumlái, Gilandi, Duduya, Mujnái and Dolong. These are noticed in their order.

The Shutunga.—The Shutunga is a small stream which takes its rise in the Western Duars, and enters the State from the north at the north-west corner of Taluk Kámát Changrabandhá, where it is joined by the *Chebas* from the north. It forms for about three miles the western boundary of the Taluk, until it turns east from the north of Taluk Panisálá, where the road from Changrabandá to the frontiers crosses it, and goes into the interior. Its course now lies through a tract of country rich in paddy, tobacco and jute, the western half of which belongs to Pargana Mekhligunj, and the eastern half appertains to Pargana Mathabhanga. Before leaving the borders of Mekhligunj, it receives on its left bank in Taluk Dhuliya Khalisa a small stream called the *Jalshuya*, which is a branch of the Jaldháká flowing south from the north-west frontiers. The Jalshuya becomes almost dry during the hot weather months. The Shutunga then cuts the Patgram-Moranga Road below the Jalmaldah Bunder, which stands on its right bank. The river then continues eastward, and, after a course of about seven miles, marks the boundary line between Parganas Mekhligunj and Mathabanga, for two miles and a half, along the east of Taluk Chongarkháta Khagribari. The course of the river lies now south-east, and, after a flow of eight miles, crosses the Emigration Road below the Mathabhanga town. It then forms a curve by the west and south of the civil station, and flows on to fall into the Manshái in the north-east of Taluk Manabari. In the beginning of the present century, when the Jaldháká had not yet poured southward from Matiyarkuti, the Shutunga fell into the Dharla in the north of Taluk Shibpur. After the change effected by the cutting of the new channel of the Jaldháká, that river, which is locally called Manshai, intersected it below Taluk

The Chebas.

The Jalshuya

Old mouth of the Shutunga.

Chakiyarchhara, the channels of the two lying almost parallel to each other for about three miles, with a narrow slip of land intervening between them. The western bank of the Mánshai has of late been very largely diluviated, and the Shutunga is now cut through further up below Manabari. The section of its old bed between Manabari and Chakiyarchhara remains almost dry except during the rains, when a current of the Mánshái flows through it, and feeds the main stream below Chakiyarchhara.

Character of bed.

The banks of the Shutunga are generally steep, mostly covered with low brushwood. The bed is sandy. It becomes fordable in every part of its course from November to April, but deep and turbulent during the rains, when boats of 100 maunds burden can navigate it throughout, and very often come up to Mathabhanga.

The most important river in old Kamrup.

The Dharla.—Next comes the Dharla which was at one time the longest and most important river of the State. It drained the whole of the southern portion of the country, while the Jaldháká and the Torsa jointly did the northern. It brought plenty and prosperity to the country situated on its banks, which was the richest in the land of old Cooch Behar or Kamrup.

Was not formerly connected with the Tista.

The source of this river as now situated is traceable to the big tributary of the Tista, of the same name, which falls into the Tista in the north of Domohani Hat, a place about five miles north of Jalpaiguri. This Dharla takes its rise in the Bhutan hills, and is called the *Chil* in its upper course. Formerly, it used to enter the State as a mighty river, passing within two miles west of Jalpesh in the Western Duars. In Dr. Buchanan's account of Rangpur there is no mention of this river in connection with the Tista, into which it appears to have fallen after Major Rennell's survey of 1779. It now forms the eastern boundary of Parganna Chengmari in the Western Duars, and still passes by the west of Jalpesh, as it did of yore. It enters Cooch Behar from the north-west in Taluk Panishálá, and, winding its way without a change of direction for about five miles through Pargana Mekhligunj, and, leaving the Changrabanda Bunder on its right bank, enters into Pargana Patgram of the Jalpaiguri District from the south-east corner of Taluk Nijtaraf. After pursuing a course of about 13 miles across the northern portion of Patgram, and, flowing by the east of the Police Station of that name, where it is crossed by the Emigration Road, it touches the Cooch Behar territory in the south-west of Taluk Satgaon. Then doubling the southern portion of that Taluk in a curve of two miles, it again passes through Patgram for a little less than that distance, and then forms the boundary between the two territories

for two miles by the west of Taluk Mahishmuri in Cooch Behar. It then cuts the narrow arm of the Taluk projecting into Patgram by an irregular sweep, and flows along its north, and, finally penetrating into the State from the west in Taluk Tetuler-Chhara, it flows south of the Mayanatali or Ratherdanga Hat. It then flows in a serpentine course eastward, till it receives on its right bank a small stream named *Neda*, in the north of Taluk Jatamari. This stream, a branch of the Shutunga, issues out of it in the south of Taluk Chát Jamaldah, and is called in its upper course the *Chenakata*, which crosses the Emigration Road in the east of Bala Hat. From the mouth of the Neda or Chenakata, the Dharla continues to flow east, its bed becoming more and more irregular, until it falls into the Singimari below Baura Hat in Shibpur.

The Neda or Chenakata.

Before the opening of the Singimari, the Dharla did not end below Shibpur, but, receiving the Shutunga below that Taluk, continued to flow eastward through the tract of country now comprised by Taluks Petbhata Maghpala, Hastabud Kasaldanga, Morangamari, Ekmukhá and Ghegarkuti, and by the north of Baraibari Hat in Sonakhuli, from two miles east of which it turned south, and flowed by the west of Dinhata till it fell into the Bura Dharla, an older bed of the same river, a short way east of Gitaldah. This was approximately the main channel of the river in Major Rennell's time, when, however, the two rivers appear to have met in the south-west of Gitaldah. Into this a current of the Torsa appears to have fallen from the west of Barabhita after Major Rennell's survey, probably simultaneously with the opening of the *Singimari*, in 1820, and assumed the name of *Dharla*, after the original river. At that time the Dharla and the Bura Dharla were two distinct rivers, and flowed almost parallel to each other till they met near Gitaldah. Since then the Dharla appears to have moved westward, and gradually intercepted the bed of the Bura Dharla in Taluk Boalmari, a little north of the Rathbary ferry. From this point downward the Dharla now generally occupies the bed of the Bura Dharla of Major Rennell's time, although it ends a little further west.

Old course east of the Singimari.

South of the present bed of the Dharla lies its old bed, which is called the Bura Dharla. The river had once flowed south from the west of Taluk Mahishmuri near the borders of Patgram, and, coming interior about a mile south of the present bed, run almost parallel to it from the south of Taluk Shonarchalun, and, flowing by the north of Takimari, proceeded east till it made a curve from two miles east of Paharganj in Pargana Dinhata, and flowed south by the east of old Kamatapur, the rampart of the city extending up to its west or right bank. Taluks Nalgram, Dhallarpar, (which

The Bura or old Dharla

means situated on the banks of the Dharla) Khengti, Aolikura, Nagar Shubhaganj and Bhayairthana in Pargana Lalbazar, stand on its north or left bank. At present it loses itself in the Singimari below Taluk Chhota Salbari. The bed is, however, traceable on the east bank of the Singimari by the north of Taluk Salbari, and in a curve along the west, north and east of Taluk Shitalabas. The channel is now intercepted by the Dharla in Taluk Boalmari, and lost in that river. Formerly, it proceeded south, and then south-east through what is now Taluk Atharabenki, and occupied a position represented by the lower course of the Nilkumar, which, at places, is called the Bura Dharla. This the later Dharla joined a short way east of Gitaldah, as noticed above. In the fifteenth century it was a pretty big river, and witnessed the glory of Kanteswar's kingdom, and defended the city of Kamatapur from foreign invasion from the east. This portion of the bed is still in existence, and a current of the Singimari passes through it during the greater portion of the year. The entire bed is very irregular, being a series of curves and abrupt bends all along the course. It becomes almost dry during the hot weather months. Even during the rains the waters do not rise high except after a heavy fall of rain when it cannot be crossed without a boat or raft. The Hat of Taraganj in Taluk Bara Gadaiakhora, in Pargana Lalbazar, stands on its south bank, opposite the old site of Hat Shubhaganj across the river.

It protected the east of the City of Kamatapur.

After Major Rennell's survey, and before the opening of the present Singimari, that is, some time within the last quarter of the eighteenth and first quarter of the present century, a current of the Dharla appears to have poured down south-east from Shibpur, and fallen into the Bura-Dharla in the north-west of Taluk Paharganj. This led to various shiftings in many parts of the beds of the two; and thus we find no end of *jalas* and deserted beds between the two rivers in the tract of country north of Pahargunj and east of the Singimari. With the opening of the Singimari the waters of both the Dharla and Bura-Dharla began to be drained southward, leaving the eastern sections almost abandoned. When, however, the Torsa subsequently poured southward from the west of Taluk Barabhita it found the bed of the Dharla nearest to it, flowed through the same, and considerably augmented its dimensions in course of time. The section of the Bura Dharla, east of the Singimari, is now virtually without a feeder, and is gradually but rapidly silting up.

The Maldah or Khutamara.—There is another small stream called *Khutamara* in its upper course, and *Girdari* in its lower, which flows parallel to the Bura Dharla, about three miles to the south, and falls into the Singimari near the Rangpur frontiers. It is a branch of the Maldah which enters Cooch Behar territory

from Patgram, about half a mile south of the Bura Dharla in Taluk Mahishmuri, flows generally along the Rangpur frontiers for about three miles, before it turns east and goes into the interior by the north of Taluk Bâragharia, and then, in an westward curve through Taluk Gadopota, leaves the State by the south-west of that Taluk. From about the middle of this curve which opens out into the District of Rangpur, issues the Khutamara, which, flowing south-east, drains the southern portion of Pargana Lalbazar. Formerly it used to pass by the south of Barabangla, about five miles south-east of Goshanimari and Chhota Saulmari. This stream, too, like the Dharla and the Bura Dharla, was intersected by the Singimari below Bârabangla, and the section of the channel in the east has in course of time become quite dry.

After leaving the big Taluk Shitalkhuchi, the Khutamara now flows through Atiyabari Nepra, Dewankote Jayduar, Jayduar and Lalbazar in Pargana Lalbazar, whence it appears to have formerly flowed due east, and fallen into the Dharla as noticed above. The portion, east of Baramasia, is not, however, clearly traceable now. From near Sovana Baramasia the stream assumes the name of *Gidari*. From the east of that Taluk the main channel flows south, and, after receiving the *Ratnai*, another current from the parent Maldah, at the trijunction of Taluks Baramasia, Bajitchatra, and Chhat Baramasia, goes south-east along the eastern borders of the Chatra Taluks, and finally falls into the Singimari about a mile north-east of the Barthar Hât. The Gidari and Ratnai.

The stream Maldah, of which the Khutamara and Ratnai are branches, has already been noticed as leaving for Rangpur from the south-east of Taluk Gadopota. It re-enters the State in the west of Taluk Shitalkhuchi, and then marks the boundary between Cooch Behar and Rangpur between Taluks Gáchtalá and Káimari, with the exception of a few miles in Taluk Dhumerkhata and Kayeterbari. It ultimately leaves the State from the south-east of Taluk Kaimari, and falls into the Dharla in the District of Rangpur. It has now almost dried up, and the bed has become a series of pools and marshes. Hat Ramanigunj in Taluk Sangarbari lies on its left bank, and is in a flourishing condition. The Bunder at Shitai stands also on its left bank in Taluk Nagar Shitai, below which the river is crossed by a good masonry bridge of 3 spans constructed at the expense of Kheru Mohammed Chowdhuri of Shitai Pirpal.

Tributaries of the Jaldhaka on its left bank.

Of the rivers that fall into the Jaldhâka on its north or left bank, the *Kumali* is the uppermost. As noticed above, it originally fell into the Jaldhaka outside the State. This stream, which is also called the *Dikdari* in the Western Duars, is a branch of the *Dinak*

The Moranga and Gandu.

which takes its rise in the Bhutan hills, and falls into a small stream called *Moranga*, beyond the frontiers, a little west of the Moranga Bunder. This Moranga, after which the Bunder is named, is a small stream which enters the State from the Duars in the west of Taluk Tengnamari, after having received another stream of the name of *Gándu*, at the north-west corner of the Taluk, and meets the *Kumali* as noticed above. The united stream retains the name Kumali, and flows down south-east through the old bed of the Jaldháka, until it falls into that big river in the north of Taluk Káchákhawa. Besides the Moranga Bunder there was a Police Out-Post adjoining it, on the left bank of the river. The Out-Post has been lately abolished. Two miles down stand the Ksheti Hat and the Ksheti Model School, also on the left bank. These are old places, and are largely inhabited by Goalas or milk-men, and are famous for their *ghee* and curd. The river is not navigable except during the rains.

The Rangati

The Gilandi.—The next stream on the east is the *Gilandi*. It is only the southern section of a small stream called the *Rangati* which is also a branch of the Dinah. After passing some of the outlying tracts of Cooch Behar in Taluk Gosaihat, lying within Pargana Maraghat of the Western Duars, the Gilandi enters the State from the north-west in the east of Taluk Tengnamari. After flowing south-east along the northern frontiers for about three miles, it comes inland in a southerly direction through Taluk Phulbari, and, leaving the Phulbari Hât at a short distance on its left in front of a curve, falls into the Jaldháká in the north of Taluk Giladanga, a little west of the present Tapsitala Ghat. There is a mile and a half of the old or Mara Gilandi within the State lying west of the present bed, the upper half of which lies in Taluk Tengnamari, and the lower half in Ksheti. The distance between the two beds along the frontiers is about 500 yards, and both meet in Taluk Ksheti, the land between them being like a perpendicular section of an inverted cone with an altitude of a mile. These beds are of historic importance, in that the country between them was the source of a long and persistant dispute between this Raj and Bhutan, which was finally set at rest after the conclusion of the Second Bhutan War in 1865.

The Gilandi, like its sister stream the Kumlái, becomes fordable during the hot weather months, but swells into a turbulent little rivulet during the rains, overflooding the banks for miles around, and sometimes causing much loss to the cultivators. It is at no season navigable for large boats. Even in the rainy season navigation is unsafe, as the difference between the high flood and the normal level is very great, and as the floods rise and subside sometimes within 24 hours.

The Duduya.—The Duduya comes next. It enters the State from the north about a mile east of the Gilandi in Taluk Phulbari. It is a pretty big river about 250 yards in breadth, and is formed by the union of several small streams in the Western Duars. It forms about a mile of the northern frontiers of the State, and, coming into the interior about a mile north of the Dakalikoba Hât, which stands on its right bank, winds its course along the western borders of Taluk Balasunder and Singjani, forming the boundary line between Parganas Mekhliganj and Mathabhanga, till it falls into the Jaldhâká opposite the north point of Taluk Indrerkuti. As late as 1859 the river had two successive loops, measuring about two miles between Taluks Balasunder and Singjani, the distance between them being scarcely above a hundred yards. This narrow neck of land was severed before 1868, the date of Mr. O'Donnel's survey, and the waters have since been flowing in a straight line from the north. The river is navigable by boats of light burden all the year round. It scatters plenty on lands through which it passes, and the people living on its banks are generally well-to-do farmers. The floods, however, are also frequent, and sometimes destructive.

The Mujnai.—The next river in the east is the Mujnai which runs almost parallel with the upper course of the Torsa. It rises in the southern slope of the Bhutan Hills, and flows in a southerly course through the Western Duars, during which it is joined by a number of small streams among which is the old Torsa which flows into it about two miles north-west of Falakata, and through which a current of the Torsa still passes from a short way down the hills. Formerly this river was called *Manshai* after which the Jaldhâká was named from the point of its confluence with it. The Manshai was a pretty big river even in Major Rennell's time. Rising high up in Bhutan it used to cut the Torsa from the north-east, a little north of the present southern frontiers of Bhutan, after which it flowed south-west eventually turning south, and pursued a course through the Western Duars much in the same way as at present. In course of time the Manshai ceased to flow down as an independent river from below the point of intersection with the Torsa, and became a tributary to that river. The section of the river in the south was kept alive by the Mujnâi, which was evidently a feeder to it in old times, and was named after the tributary.

From the mouth of the old Torsa, north-west of Falakata, in the Western Duars, the Mujnai makes a curve eastward, and then flows south by the west of that place, till it touches Cooch Behar territory in the north-west of Taluk Saulmari. It then flows along

the west of Saulmari, forming the boundary between the State and British territory for about a mile, and comes into the interior in a curve from the north-west between Taluks Saulmari and Singjani. Then follows another curve, by the north, east, and south of Taluk Mukuldanga, in the east of which lies the new Changrabunda Bunder, succeeded by a winding southerly course till the river falls into the Jaldhaká, south of Taluk Rangamati, a little north of the Chokhkata ferry, and changes the name of the main river into *Manshai*. Formerly, however, the Mujnai did not end here, but used to flow on in a south-easterly direction, through the channel now occupied by a portion of the Manshai section of the Jaldhaka, and then go east from Matiyarkuthi through Bhogmara and Dumniguri. From Kalpani, where it received the Torsa at a subsequent date, it turned south-east, and, passing by Taluks Atharakotha, Ghegirghat, and Mawamari, flowed through the tract of country lying east of the river Baniadah, till it fell into the Dharla near the borders of Purvabhag in Rangpur. The dead channel of the Nilkumar, which in its upper part is at places called *Manshai*, represents this old course of the river, and tallies with the course shown in Major Rennell's map. This channel from below Matiyarkuthi was gradually forsaken, as the Torsa and the Jaldhaka flowed south by intersecting it, between the last quarter of the eighteenth, and the first quarter of the present century; and in course of time it has become quite dead. During the rains a feeble current passes by it; but in the hot weather months it dries up in many places.

Nilkumar.

The Mujnai is now narrow, but it is navigable for boats of 50 to 100 maunds burden throughout the year as far as Falakata.

The Dolong.—The Dolong is the last of the tributaries of the Jaldhaka or Manshai on its left bank. It is a small stream which rises in the Western Duars, and enters the State from the north in Taluk Saulmari, two miles east of the Mujnai. It flows along the northern borders for about a mile from west to east after which it turns south, continuing in that direction for about three miles, and forming the boundary between Taluks Saulmari and Ramthenga in the west, and Lotapota in the east. It then goes south-east, and, flowing by the north-east of Taluk Dawaguri and east of Ruidanga, veers south, and passes by the east of Taluk Angerkata Parodubi and Bhanurkuti, till it falls into the Manshai by the west of a Taluk, named after it, Dolongerkuti. The Emigration Road crosses it a little north of its mouth, where there is a substantial iron bridge over the waterway. Except during the rains, from July to October, it is fordable almost in every part of its course, and is not navigable.

(3).—The Torsa and Connected Rivers.

The *Torsa*, or more correctly, the *Toyarosha*, meaning angry water, or *Am-muchu* as it is called in Bhutan, takes its rise in southern Thibet, and, after a course of nearly 180 miles, about a third of which lies through the Bhutan Hills and the remainder through the plains, falls into the Brahmaputra in the District of Rangpur near a place named Baguya. On its way from the hills the river passes through the middle of the State, and has a circuitous course of about 60 miles through it, which is twice as much as that in the Western Duars. Of all the rivers in the State this is the most capricious, and has played very wanton tricks on the loose soil of the country. It has shifted its course several times during the last century and a half, and occupied different positions over a tract 12 miles from east to west through the entire breadth (north to south) of the country. Good lands have been cut through at the opening of every fresh channel, the bed abandoned, being full of mere sands, is even at the present date no better than an arid and barren tract, in some places covered with such grass jungle as sands would grow. Populous places and important marts grew up on the stream while it flowed, but fell into decay, as the river deserted the locality. The consequence has been that the whole tract referred to above is now a network of dead streams, long abandoned beds, and marshes, all designated alike after the name *Torsa*, with only a differentiating epithet such as *Mara* or dead, *Bura* or old, *Chhara* or deserted, and the like and the deserted sites of old marts and depopulated villages lie scattered all over it.

Effects of change of the course.

The river now enters the State from the north between Taluks Lafabari in Pargana Mathabhanga, and Buxibas Putimari in Pargana Cooch Behar, and flows in a more or less southerly course till it reaches the point of its old junction with the Manshai below Kalpani, north of Barabhita. Here the stream bifurcates; one branch flows south under the name of *Dharla*, and, in various turns and bends, and, passing within two miles west of the sub-divisional town of Dinhata, falls into the Singimari in Taluk Dhamailgach north of Durgapur; while the other turns east, and, retaining its proper name of *Torsa*, flows eastward by the north of Barabhita, leaving the dry mouth of its oldest bed in the south. This branch of the river passes by the south of the town of Cooch Behar, and, turning south-east and leaving the marts of Sunitigunj and Mahishbathan on its right bank, receives the *Ghargharia* from the north, and soon after falls into the Kaljani, a little west of the Tufangunj Bunder in Taluk Balarampur. This last was not,

The present course of the river.

The first channel.

Second channel.

however, an important channel before 1890, previous to which the bulk of the water used to pass south by the Dharla, and fall into the Singimari north of Durgapur. It used to carry very little water during the hot weather, and a feeble current which was not even a foot deep at many points below the town meandered through the sands. There was then a very big loop which commenced from the west of Damodarpur, and encompassing Takagachh by the west, north, and east, ended a little west of the Fanshidaha *ghat*. On the left bank of this loop stands the Palace; and as the current became very strong during the rains and cut away the banks, fear was entertained of its safety. A diversion of the river was therefore decided upon, and in 1890 a cross canal was cut from the south-west of Damodarpur to the point where the river turned east near the Fanshidaha ferry, a distance of about two miles. Through this the current was diverted in the rains of that year, and the loop below the Palace was avoided. Since that time this branch of the river has considerably augmented in bulk, and is not now fordable in any season. Except near the Palace, the loop has well-nigh dried up. The channel in the south, namely, the Dharla, has proportionately lost its waters, and gives indications of gradually silting up.

The eastern current, namely, the Torsa, is now the main channel of the parent river, carries water all the year round, and is navigable throughout its course. Much river traffic is carried on by this branch. The Cooch Behar State Railway formerly terminated on its right bank, opposite the town of Cooch Behar, and the up terminus was named *Torsa*.

The oldest bed represented by the Manshai and old Nilkumar.

Neither of these channels, however, represents the oldest course of this erratic river. Originally the Torsa appears to have poured south-west from the foot of the Bhutan Hills through Madar Duar, and entered the State somewhere near the place where the Mujnai now comes in near Falakata. It then followed a course indicated by the bed of the Mujnai, or Manshai of old, flowing east from near Matiyarkuti, as noted in connection with the Jaldhaka river. Turning south-east from the north of Barabhita the river then appears to have flowed below what are now Taluks Duderkuthi, Charakerkuthi, Gangalerkuthi, Dhaliyabari, Ghegirghat, and Mowamari. From near the Gosaigunj Hat it became inclined more towards the east, and, passing below Nazirgunj, flowed through the tract of country lying east of the rivers *Baniadaha* and *Nilkumar*, both of which are of a later origin. Its course then lay through what is now Pargana Bhitarband in District Rangpur, below Fulkumar, Gaibari, Paradanga, and Dinhata, until it fell into the Brahmaputra. The lower section of this bed,

from below Nazirgunj and beyond the eastern borders of Pargana Dinhata, is now roughly indicated by the Fulkumar or *old Nilkumar*. In a subsequent period the *Manshai* came to flow through the portion which lies within the State, down to Gonsaigunj. In course of time there was a change in the upper course of the river, and the old bed in the Western Duars, ceasing to be the main channel for its water, gradually dwindled into a small stream, and served as a tributary to the Manshai. It now ends in the Mujnai, a few miles north-west of Falakata.

Its shifting towards the east and back again to the west.

Abandoning its old bed in the west, the Torsa gradually moved eastward and back again, until it occupied its present position above the point of bifurcation near Barabhita, some time after Major Rennell's survey. Its farthest progress in the east is indicated by the Bura Torsa,[3] which flows by the west, north and east of Nilkuthi, the European quarter of Cooch Behar. When this was the main channel, the river appears to have come into Cooch Behar territory from the east of Patlakhawa Hat in Taluk Chhat Singimari, and flowed south-east through the tract of country indicated by Taluks Shukdhanerkuthi, Sakunibala, Kalarayerkuthi, Dharmabarerkuthi and Maranadirkuthi, and, passing by the south of Dodeya Hat, came close to the town of Cooch Behar. It then flowed by the west, north and east of Nilkuthi, passed by the west of Bhojanpur, about a mile east of which the old Shishabtala Hat was, left Kaligunj Hat on its right bank, and, receiving the Ghargharia in the south of Taluk Falimari, a little above a mile in the east of the Mahishbathan Hat, ultimately joined the Kaljani below the Tufangunj Bunder. When and how long the river continued to flow this way cannot now be ascertained with any amount of precision. In 1779, however, when Major Rennell made his survey, this bed was evidently an unimportant one, as it is not shewn on his map. When the river abandoned this bed and flowed more towards the west, the Ghargharia, which had formerly been only a tributary, came to be the principal river, and the section of the bed below Taluk Mahishbathan was named after it. In Major Rennell's time, the river flowed in a course lying about five miles west of the one just described, and inclined more towards the south. The change had taken place mainly in the lower part of the course, the river entering the territories of Cooch Behar near Patlakhawa as before. From Patlakhawa the river flowed south, and leaving the Pundibari Hat, then called Burigunj, on its

Second position of the river—Bura Torsa.

Third position—Major Rennell's survey—Nilkumar.

[3] It cannot be definitely asserted that the *Mara Lawtara* does not represent a still older course of the Torsa. No one can now say that the Torsa ever flowed that way. It is not also improbable that the former is only an old bed of the *Ghargharia*.

left bank in Taluk Kalarayerkuthi, passed through the tract comprised by Taluks Chandan Chaura, Jajnanarayaner Kuthi, and Matikata, and by the east of Rajar Hat, and then, taking a southerly sweep by the west of the town of Cooch Behar, became a little inclined towards the east a short way below it, and ultimately fell into the Manshai in the north of Gangaderkuthi about four miles south of the metropolis. Here Taluk Ghugumari lay on its south or right bank, and Maharanigunj, Harinchara, Guriahati, Ghoramara, and Dhaliyabari, on its left bank. At this time this channel had no connection with the eastern bed, flowing below Kaligunj, and the section of the river lying between the old Rangpur Road, and the Rangamati (subsequently Dhubri) Road did not then exist. It had not also been joined with the Manshai near Barabhita. Both these connections were effected afterwards, as will be noticed later on. From Gangaderkuthi the united stream flowed on, all the while retaining its former direction, till it came to the west of Nazirgunj which was a little east of the present Gonsaingunj Hat. From this point the older bed lay eastward, and, after a while turning south-east, flowed a short way east of Shahebgunj. It ultimately fell into the Brahmaputra, passing in its course Paradanga and Pinhata in Bhitarbund, now a part of the District of Rangpur. Now, this course of the river tallies exactly with the bed of the Fulkumar, which now flows by the west of Gaibari, representing an old bed of the Nilkumar. It had an outlet eastward, which fell into the Sankos, and then flowed south into the Brahmaputra under the name of *Dudkumar*. It was, however, only a small stream at the time. The marts of Buri Hat in Taluk Gatikachua, Mahakal Hat in Hokodah, Bhadrakali Hat in Jaigir Balabari, and Mainaguri Hat in Nagarerbari, within the State, stood on its banks. This old Nilkumar is now dead, and the upper portion of its course, as far as old Mahakal Hat, is not traceable, portions having dried up, and numerous marshes and *beels* having sprung up all along the line.

The Nilkumar.

To return to the main channel. The bulk of the water, however, flowed directly south-east from the west of Nazirgunj under the name of Nilkumar, and, passing within three miles west of Shahebgunj, turned south, and, after a course of about 15 miles more through the State, left its territories for Rangpur at a point some six miles south-east of Gitaldah. Thence it had a winding course of about 25 miles tending towards the south-east, and joined the Dharla on the left bank, about three miles south-east of Kulaghat, in the south-east corner of Purvabhag. At this time the Nilkumar was the principal river in this part of the State and was considerably wide. When Dr. Buchanan visited the country in

1809 he found it "wider than the Dharla ; but the stream was not so rapid, and was very dirty." The Torsa had evidently begun to abandon this channel and chalk out a new course. The dead stream *Baguni*, which now forms the eastern boundary of Pargana Dinhata, is only a branch of the old Nilkumar, or Fulkumar, joining it with the Nilkumar. Baguni.

In the beginning of the present century, about the year 1808, there was a heavy flood, and the waters of the united stream, the Manshai and Torsa, poured south from the source of the Nilkumar and old Nilkumar west of Nazirgunj, cut a channel by the east of Bhetaguri, Jarabari, Gobrasara, and west of Baniadah, and fell into the Dharla in Rangpur, about 4 miles south-east of Gitaldah. At this time the Manshai appears to have been the stronger feeder, and the new stream was called after it in the upper part, and Baniadah, in the lower. A branch of the Baniadah, named *Fulkumar*, which is, however, not to be confounded with the old Nilkumar, issued out of it from the north-west of the Natkobarihat, and, flowing eastward, generally along the southern borders of Dinhata, and the northern frontier of Purvabhag, fell into the Nilkumar in the north-east of the last-named Pargana. Origin of the Baniadah. The fourth shifting of the Torsa. Fulkumar

Owing to the gradual shifting of its course westward, the Torsa subsequently returned to its old bed in the west, shewn in Major Rennell's map as flowing from the northern frontiers below Bhagabanguri, and joining the Manshai a little north-west of Maynaguri. Instead of flowing south-east through the old bed of the Manshai, the bulk of the waters rushed southward probably during the flood of 1820, when the Manshai also swept south from Matiyarkuti, cut the neck of land between the bed of the Dharla and the old Manshai, and fell into the former. The united stream thee flowed on under the name of *Dharla*, which it retains at the present day. The fifth change. The old Manshai and the Dharla joined.

A great change in the eastern section of the river, namely, the Torsa, appears to have taken place in the very beginning of the present century. Formerly, the Manshai was not connected with the Torsa through the Taluks lying west of the town, and the channel of the river below the town was also separate from the one lying below Nilkuthi and Kaligunj hat. About the year 1801 or 1802 the neck of land between the two last-named beds was severed, the channel joining the Manshai and the Torsa by the west of Takagach and north of Bara Atharakotha being probably opened also at the same time ; and the waters of the river flowed eastward, through what is roughly the present channel, and fell into the Kaljani. This bed of the river, however, did not keep on flowing Opening of the present channel, about 1802

for long, and, during the floods of 1807-8, the waters returned to their former channels.[4]

This state of things continued for some time, till about the year 1820, the Dharla was joined with the Torsa, as noticed above. From that time the greater portion of the waters passed by the two beds, the Dharla and the Manshai. At the time of Mr. Pemberton's survey (1858), the Manshai was by far the most important channel of the Torsa. Gradually, however, the Manshai was abandoned and when Mr. O'Donnell made his survey in 1868-70, the opening of the eastern channel near Barabhita had almost silted up. Both the Manshai and the Torsa below the town were unimportant beds, and the Dharla was the main channel at the time. About two decades afterwards, the channel below the town came to be revived after the diversion of the river in 1890, and the Dharla lost its importance. The Manshai did not profit by the change and, although now and then it received a good flush of water during the rains, it rapidly went on silting up and is now little better than a marsh, portions of its upper bed having been brought under cultivation.

Only tributary of the Torsa called Ghargharia.

The only tributary to the Torsa is the Ghargharia, which comes from the north-west, and has a current all round the year. From the west of Taluk Kholta to the east of Bara Rangras, *i. e.*, along nine miles of the northern frontiers, the boundary is cut by five small streams, the middle one of which is the Ghargharia. This stream drains the greater portion of the country north of the town of Cooch Behar, known as Gerd Chawra, and a second tract about 20 square miles in area to the east of the town. The four other streams, which also come in from the Western Duars, feed it one after another, and disgorge the drainage of the country into its channel.

The Ghargharia is formed by the union of two smaller streams outside the Cooch Behar frontiers in Taluk Panchkolguri in the Western Duars, and enters the State at the north-east corner of Taluk Shibpur. After a course of about two miles along the east of the Taluk it receives a creek called *Harinmara* at its south-eastern corner. The Harinmara too rises in the Duars, and entering the State by the north-west of Shibpur, a little less than a mile west of

The Ghargharia receives the Harinmara.

[4] Dr. Buchannan writes in 1809—"The Kaljani is said in 1801 or 1802 to have received a very large addition from the Torsa, which deserted its usual channel near Vihar, sent a branch to join the Kaljani a little before that unites with the Chhannakosh, and produced a very great change on the face of the country. * * * It is said that since the floods, 1807-1808, a great part of the waters of the Torsa have returned to their former channels." —Martin's Eastern India, Vol. III, page 382.

the entrance of the Ghargharia, and, flowing by the west and south of Shibpur, falls into the Ghargharia. From the mouth of the Harinmara, the Ghargharia flows south-east, and, after a course of 5 miles through Gopalpur, Kankanguri, Mahishbathan, and Dhalaguri, receives a stream, called *Betra*, in the west of Taluk Baraibari. This Betra is a small stream and enters the frontier Taluk Tapsikhata from the west. It then flows south-east along the east of Taluk Daldali, and afterwards through Marichbari, in the east of which it is joined by a current from the Alaikumari, and then flows south through Kholta, Ambari and Baraibari, till it falls into the Ghargharia. From Baraibari the Ghargharia flows east, and then turns south through Ambari and Kaljani to receive the stream *Bhersi* from the west, at the trijunction of Taluks Siddheswari, Kaljani and Khapaidanga. The Bhersi is the westernmost of the five small streams that enter the State from the Duars. After flowing along the boundary for about a mile it turns south, and enters Cooch Behar by the east of Taluk Bara Rangras ; and, flowing south-west from the south of Taluk Salmara, it assumes the name of *Pakrajani* in the south of Taluk Gopalpur, crosses the Buxa Road in Sonari, and then flows on to fall into the Ghargharia as noted above. From the point of its junction with the Bhersi the Ghargharia proceeds in a more or less southerly course and receives a stream of the name of *Lawtara*, which comes from the north-west, in the south of Taluk Dalua Dasgir.

Also Betra.

Bhersi.

Lawtara.

The bed of the Ghargharia is narrow and the banks steep. It becomes very turbulent during the rains, but keeps very little of water in other seasons of the year. It is not navigated. All of the small streams which feed it are now dead, and are little better than marshes in the hot season.

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(4).—The Kaljani and its Tributaries.

The Kaljani, although it is a feeder of the Sankos, is of sufficient importance to be regarded as an independent river and separately noticed. Roughly speaking, it separates Pargana Cooch Behar from Tufangunj. It comes from the Western Duars, and, after a course of about 40 miles through the State, falls into the Sankos in Taluk Jhaukuthi, shortly before the latter leaves the Cooch Behar territory for Rangpur. It is formed within half a mile of the northern frontiers by the union of two small streams, both of which rise in the Bhutan Hills, and enters the State in the

The Kaljani formed by the Alaikuri and Dima.

north of Taluk Kholta. Regarding this river Mr. Sunder, Settlement Officer of the Western Duars, writes: "This Kaljani is the combined waters of the Alaikuri and Dima rivers, which first take the name of Kaljani after their junction at Alipur, the present

Alaikuri.

Head-Quarters of the Buxa Sub-Division. The Alaikuri, which supplies the greater portion of the water to the Kaljani, is a river of some size which takes its rise in the Bhutan Hills, and after flowing in a southerly and south-easterly course through the Western Duars, joins its waters with the Dima, as stated above, and becomes the Kaljani.

Dima.

"The Dima which forms the other affluent of the Kaljani, is also a considerable stream, rising in the lower Bhutan Hills near Buxa, and flowing southward to its confluence with the Alaikuri."[5]

Gidari

Just as the river enters the State in the north of Taluk Kholta, it receives on its right bank a small stream called *Gidari* which also comes from the Duars, and flows by the north-west of Kholta for half a mile till it turns south to fall into the Kaljani. The Kaljani now flows east in a southward curve, on the eastern arm of which lies our Kholta Bunder, and, to the north, across the river, the Government Sub-divisional town of Alipur. Another curve of about a mile follows from below Kholta, at the termination of which the river turns south-east, and in a tortuous course of about 10 miles, flows along the east of Taluks Kholta and Ambari, until it receives from the north-east a stream called Gadadhar. From the point of entrance of the Kaljani to its confluence with the Gadadhar, the river flows along the boundary, keeping the British territories on its left

Noog and Cheka.

bank, and receiving the waters of two small streams, the *Noog* and the *Cheka*, on east of Taluk Kholta. The Gadadhar is a small stream which takes its rise in the Bhutan Hills near the Buxa Duars, and has a more or less southerly course till it falls into the Kaljani as noted above. Mr. Sunder thus writes of this stream:

Gadadhar

"The Gadadhar river takes its rise in the Bhutan Hills east of Buxa, where it is known as the Jainti river. It takes the name of Gadadhar from the junction of the Sachaphu and Jainti rivers, and falls into the Kaljani below Taluk Chalnipak. It is fordable in every part during the winter months."[6] A big fair is annually held at its confluence with the Kaljani, in Taluk Ambari in March on the occasion of the Astami Snán Festival. The water of this stream is considered sacred by the Hindus, and a large concourse

[5] Settlement Report of the Western Duars, Jalpaiguri District, Part I, Chapter I, Para. 33, 1895.

[6] Settlement Report of the Western Duars, Jalpaiguri District, Part I, Chapter I, Para. 34,1895.

of pilgrims takes place on the Barunī day, when people come from a long distance to bathe in it.

A couple of miles down, the Kaljani receives the Alaikuri on its right bank in Taluk Kaljani. Formerly the Alaikuri used to flow south from the north of Taluk Tapsikhata by the west of Parurpar in the Western Duars, and reach the Cooch Behar frontier in the north of Taluk Dudumari. From here it flowed east along the borders, keeping the territories of the State on its right bank, till it reached the junction of Taluks Marichbari and Kholta. From here it came into the interior, and, going in a south-easterly course through Kholta and Ambari, fell into the Kaljani in the north of Taluk Kaljani, opposite the *abash* or seat of Thakur Balaram in Taluk Bhuchungmari, which lies on the east side of the river. This bed has been abandoned, and the Alikuri now turns east from near Parurpar and, pouring through the bed of the stream *Parur*, flows into the Dima, as noticed above, in the west of Alipur. The old bed does not pass any current except during the rains, and becomes dry in places in the winter months. Old Alaikuri

A short way down, the Kaljani receives from the north in Taluk Bhelapeta another small stream named *Khatajani* on its left bank. This too comes from the Duars, and passes a current of the Gadadhar. It enters the State in Taluk Chhat Barachaki, flows by the west of the Natabari Bunder and of Taluks Charaljani and Bhelapeta, until it falls into the Kaljani. From Bhelapeta downwards, the Kaljani has less abrupt bends, and the water flows easily by the west of the Ghoramara Bunder in Taluk Chilakhana. It receives the *Torsa* and the *Ghargharia* in Taluk Panisala and, then flows through Taluk Chaukushi Balarampur, leaving the Tufangunj Bunder on its left bank, and Balarampur on its right, both a little in the interior and almost equidistant from the Kaljani ferry at the crossing of the Dhubri Road. It leaves the State for a while from the north of Taluk Chhat Lotafela for Pargana Bhiterband in Rangpur, and, after a course of about 3 miles through Taluk Shilkhuri of that Pargana, re-enters the State to fall into the Sankos in the west of Taluk Jhaukuthi. The united stream then flows south and passes the Bhurangamari Bunder in Bhiterbund, and ultimately falls into the Brahmaputra near Nunkhawa, under the name of Dudkumar. Khatajani. Torsa and Ghargharia. Dudkumar.

A great change took place in the course of this river in the first part of the present century. At the commencement of this century when Dr. Buchanan visited the country, he found the Kaljani, then a big river, falling into the Raidak or Sankos near the Kharbari Bunder. Receiving the Torsa in the north-west of Tufangunj the Kaljani at that time used to flow east by the north of the Bunder Change in its course.

through the tract of country comprised by Taluks Deocharai, Santospur, Jhaljhali, Krishnapur, Dhadial, Rajarkuthi, and Balabhut, to be fed by the Khora or Gadadhar near Krishnapur, and to fall into the Saukos in the north-east of Taluk Balabhut, about four miles north-east of the present confluence. Subsequently, probably simultaneously with the great southward change in the course of the Torsa and the Jaldhaka, the Kaljani, freed from the east-ward thrust of the waters of the Torsa, poured down south and cut the present channel through Taluk Balarampur to fall into the Sankos further down, as noticed above.

In Major Rennell's map the Kaljani, called there *Saradinga*, is shown as forming the eastern boundary of the State. This was evidently a mistake, leaving out, as it did, the eastern portion of the country comprised by the modern Pargana of Tufangunj. Dr. Buchanan noticed this mistake in 1809, and made the following remarks :—

"The former (Kaljani), being by far the larger river of the two, Major Rennell, as usual with European Geographers, seems to have considered as the proper Chhannakosh, which probably induced him to curtail the territory of the Vihar Raja by about 200 square miles. He probably was informed, that the boundary extended along the Chhannakosh, and therefore made it terminate on the Kaljani ; whereas it goes along the Chhannakosh to the Gadadhar, and ascends the right bank of that until it reaches the same parallel of latitude as the other northern frontier of his territory." [7]

The Kaljani has a formed bed with shelving banks, and a good depth, and is a comparatively quick river. The breadth is almost uniformly 300 yards up to the point of confluence of the Torsa, below which it is broader by about 200 yards. The river commands a very large amount of traffic. Salt, rice, and molasses are imported by boats by the merchants of the Balarampur, Tufangunj, Ghoramara and Natabari Bunders, the articles of export being jute, paddy, mustard-oil and mustard-seed. Boats of two to three hundred maunds burden usually come up as far the Chilakhana Ghat near Ghoramara all round the year. Timber from the Western Duars is floated down the river to the Brahmaputra. Formerly the Bhabanigunj Thana stood on the right bank of this river in the south of Taluk Kaljani. Afterwards this was removed, and ultimately located in the town of Cooch Behar, whence its bazar is called Hat Bhabanigunj.

[7] Martin's Eastern India, Vol. III., pages, 381-2.

(5).—The Raidak and Connected Rivers.

The name Raidak is applicable to two rivers.

About ten miles east of the point where the Gadadhar joins the Kaljani in Taluk Ambari, the Raidak, a big and mighty river till of late, enters the State from the Western Duars between Taluks Dorko and Chengtimari. It is not, however, to be confounded with another, and perhaps the older, river of the same name which comes in about five miles further east. In fact the name Raidak is given to two rivers of the State, the one lying east of the other, and both flowing through the north-eastern part of Pargana Tufangunj known as Gerd Bilat Bishguri. The first, the western stream, takes its rise very high up in the Hills of Bhutan, where it is called the *Chinchu*, and flows south through the Western Duars, forming the boundary line between the Duars of Buxa and Bhalka. From the south-east of Taluk Narartoli, about three miles north of the Cooch Behar frontier, the river bifurcates into two channels, the one flowing east and the other west, and both veering south after a mile from the point of separation. The western branch enters the State between Dorko and Chengtimari, as noted above, under the name of *Raidak*, and the eastern branch pours in by the west of Taluk Khagribari within a couple of miles of the western, and is called the *Rangbarsuti*. They then flow on, and, after a separation of about 8 miles, again meet in the south of Taluk Salbari, as will be noticed fully later on. The second, or the eastern, Raidak also comes down from the Bhutan Hills and penetrates into the State between Taluks Khagribari and Rampur, and after a course of about 10 miles falls into the great Gadadhar, or Gangdhar, in the south of Taluk Jaidhoya near the eastern borders.

Western Raidak

Now, to revert to the west Raidak. This river retaining the name of the parent stream, first touches the Cooch Behar territories in the north-west of Taluk Chengtimari, and flows along its western borders for above a mile before it comes into the interior. After penetrating into the State between Taluks Dorko and Chengtimari, it flows more or less south by the west of Bara Salbari till it receives in the south of that Taluk the eastern branch of the original stream. This latter pours downwards by the west of Taluk Khagribari under the name of Rangbarsuti, having just received a current of the same name from the north at the point of incision. The united stream then flows south-west between Taluks Rasikbil and Takoamari under the name of *Ghoramara*, until it falls into the western channel of the Raidak below Salbari. The two channels are connected in the north along the borders as well, by a small stream called *Rangapani*. The Rangbarsuti was

Rangbarsuti.

Rangapani

at one time connected with a small river called the Ghoramara which flows in the Duars and is now a feeder of the East Raidak, and was named after it. This Rangbarsuti, or Ghoramara as it is called in Cooch Behar, is now a dead stream, and passes no current except during the rains. In 1858, the date of Mr. Pemberton's survey of the State, it was a powerful stream with a big channel, and had not the bends and curves of which the bed is now composed. Evidently the river received an influx of water after Mr. Pemberton's survey, and, as the rivers subsequently came to be called Ghoramara, it is clear that the infusion was made by the stream Ghoramara as noticed above. The rush of the new waters served to tear away the soil, and effect changes in the configuration of the bed, which are now visible. There was also another stream between the two arms of the Raidak. In the course of the ten years that elapsed between Mr. Pemberton's survey and that of Mr. O'Donnell, a small stream, called *Haldimohan* here, and *Sakabhanga* in the Duars, probably a current from the parent Raidak, appears to have poured down south midway between the two arms, and, after a southerly course of about four miles between Taluks Chengtimari and Atiyamochar, and subsequently between Bara Salbari and Rasikbil, fallen into the Ghoramara about two miles north of its confluence with the Raidak. The Haldimohan too is now little better than a marsh in winter.

Haldimohan or Saka bhanga.

Course of the Raidak.

The Raidak after its junction with the Ghoramara flows south-east through Taluks Dhaldabri and Nakarkhána, and receives a stream now dead, called *Mara Sankos* in the north of Taluk north Jhawkuti. It then curves eastward through Chota Guma in Goalpara for about a mile, after which it turns south-west by the north of Taluk Balakuti and Silghagri, with a small patch of outlying land of Goalpara called Chhat Pokalagi between them. Formerly, instead of passing by the north as at present, the river made a loop around Silghagri and resumed its former direction from the north-west of that Taluk, with scarcely a space of 200 yards between the two heads. This short neck of land appears to have been severed before Mr. Pemberton's survey, and the river now flows direct by the north of Silghagri. From the north-west corner of this Taluk the river turns south, and in many curves flows along what is roughly the eastern boundary of the State for about the next 12 miles. From Silghagri it passes by the east of Taluks Barakodali and Manshai, and leaves Cooch Behar for a moment from the south-east of the latter to return, however, in its south, after encompassing the Goalpara Taluk Dighaltari. From the south-west of Taluk Manshai the river formerly made a loop westward around a piece of Goalpara land called "Bouserkuti." This too was avoided before 1858. The river now flows along

the eastern borders of Taluk Devagram in two big curves, first westward and then eastward, and receives the *Dipa-Raidak* on the western head of the last curve in the south-west of Taluk Devagram. Just south of the junction lies the mouth of the old Kaljani, which formerly poured into the Raidak from the west, opposite the Kherbari Bunder on the left bank. The augmented stream then flows south for about two miles and a half by the east of Taluk Balabhut, through which it curves towards the northwest from the south-west corner of Taluk Gopalerkuti. As it reaches the western borders of Balabhut, the river receives from the north a current from the Mara Kaljani, and turns south to meet the *Khora Nadi* or *Gadadhar* from the north-west, and a little below, the *Kaljani* from the same direction. The amalgamated water then flow south-east, and touching the south-west boundary of Balabhut for about a mile and a half, penetrates into Taluk Jhawkuti, and flows south till they reach the southern borders of that Taluk. There the river leaves the Cooch Behar territory, and flows more or less south-east, passing the Bhurungamari Bunder *en route*. A few miles down it meets the *Gangadhar*, and the united river falls into the Brahmaputra by two mouths, the southern one under the name of Dudkumar near Nunkhawa, and the northern under the name of Sankos, a few miles higher up.

Khora or Gadadhar, and Kaljani.

There have been some important changes in the course of the river in Taluks Balabhut and Jhawkuti since Mr. Pemberton's survey of 1858. At the time of that survey the river did not flow directly south from the south of Devagram far enough, but made a long narrow curve about three miles in length towards the northwest in Taluk Balabhut. This bend was avoided before Mr. O'Donnell's survey, and the river now flows due south from Balabhut to Gopalerkuti, and all connection with the old bed has ceased, the head of the bend having silted up. The abandoned bed which is called 'Durllaver Chhara' is yet considerably deep, and is the biggest fishery in this part of the State.

Changes in the course of the Raidak.

Again, from the south-west of Taluk Gopalerkuti the river formerly branched out into two streams. One of these went northwest, and flowed pretty much in the bed now occupied by the river till it reached the north of Taluk Jhawkuti where it was joined by the other branch, which having gone north-east flowed by the east of Balabhut till it met the western branch. The united current then flowed south-west along the borders of Jhawkuti, and, doubling the westernmost point of the Taluk in a curve, turned southeast till it reached the southern extremity of the Taluk whence it resumed a southerly course. Since 1858, the river has abandoned the branch in the east of Balabhut, and, the main channel in the

west of Jhawkuti, and, flowing entirely through the branch in the west of Balabhut, has cut a direct route through the middle of Jhawkuti, which is now the main channel of the river. It is thus that the river system in Taluks Balabhut, Gopalerkuti and Jhawkuti is so bewildering and communication in these Taluks becomes so difficult during the rains.

The river has two different names, Raidak and Sankos.

The Sankos once the chief river.

The river has two different names in different parts of its course. From Dorko down to Devagram it is called the Raidak, the section in the south from the mouths of the Dipa-Raidak and the Mara Kaljani going by the name of Sankos, although the old bed around Bauserkuti and Silghagri is still called "Mara Sankos." The fact is that at one time the Mara Sankos, or rather the Sankos, was the only important stream which flowed along the east of Barakodali, Manshai and Devagram: it had not then received any addition from the Raidak. The river was thus called *Sankos* throughout its course. When Dr. Buchannan visited this part of the country in 1808, the Chhannakosh, which is the same as Sankos, was all but dead, and another stream, which fed it from the north (called by him the old Sankos but which is probably the Raidak) was not also powerful. In course of time this latter, namely the Raidak, appears to have become a big river, and considerably enlarged the channel through which the waters of the Sankos had before flowed. And as virtually a new river was thus formed, the name Sankos came to be forgotten, and Raidak substituted in its place over that part of the course where the Sankos was not powerful. In their fury the waters of the new river sought the shortest routes, and avoided the big curves and loops of the old bed. In those places where the curves of the old river were avoided these curves properly retained their old name. This is what appears to have taken place near Silghagri and Bauserkuti. As the section of the river from below Devagram had already been pretty large owing to its confluence with the Kaljani and the Dipa, and could thus hold its own, it escaped being obliterated by the Raidak, and retained its own proper name *Sankos*.

Surra lingah. Mistake in Major Rennell's map.

In Major Rennell's map of 1779 the upper course of the Sankos is named "Surradingah" and shown as flowing by the west of Buxa and Santrabari in the Western Duars, and touching the State below Bhabanigunj, which is our modern Kholta Bunder. This is evidently the Kaljani of the present time, although it is shown on the map as flowing along the north-east borders of the State, which is a palpable mistake, the territorial limits of the State having been pretty much the same at the end of the last century as at the present time. The Kaljani was then a powerful stream, as large as its affluent, the Sankos, and was probably

regarded by Major Rennell as only the upper course of the latter. Dr. Buchannan makes the following remarks regarding this river in his account of Rangpur:—"Major Renell has called the upper part of this river (Chhannakosh) Surradingah, and the lower Sunecoss, probably owing to his having been unable to trace its course through the northern parts of Ghurla (Goollah R.) which were then covered with forests. * * * Immediately below Kharbari the Chhannakosh receives from the north-west a very large river which the people called to me the Kaljani. It is, however, evidently the Surradingah of Major Renell, a name which I could not pronounce so as to be understood by the natives of the place; but I am informed by a relation of the Raja of Vihar that the Kaljani is formed by the union of Surradingah and Gorom. A small river, named the Dipok, enters the fork between the Kaljani and the Chhannakosh. The former, being by far the larger river of the two, Major Renell, as usual with European geographers, seems to have considered as the proper Chhannakosh, which probably induced him to curtail the territory of the Vihar Raja by about 200 square miles. He probably was informed that the boundary extended along the Channakosh, and, therefore made it terminate on the Kaljani; whereas it goes along the Chhannakosh to the Gadadhar, and ascends the right bank of that until it reaches the same parallel of latitude as the other northern portion of his territory."[8] In fact "Surradingah" seems to be only the compound word "Basra-Dima," meaning, the river formed by the union of the Basra and the Dima, two of the streams which even now go to make the Kaljani within the Duars, which probably went by that joint name in those days, just as the river formed by the union of the Dipa and the Raidak is now called by the people the "Dipa-Raidak". Owing to the peculiarity of the pronunciation of the natives the *Ba* of *Basra* could not probably catch Major Rennell's ear, who could make out "Sra-Dima" only, which bears much like "Surradingah." The mistake of Major Rennell, making the north-east frontier of Cooch Behar terminate on the Kaljani, was partly rectified by Mr. Tassin in his map of Bengal compiled in 1841, and the Gadadhar was shown as flowing along the north-east borders, although the outline given in the map deos not bear even the remotest resemblance to the actual configuration of this part of the State.

Pointed out by Dr. Buchannan.

Rectified in Tassin's map of 1841.

The Raidak portion of the river is now almost dead, passes only a small current, and is not navigable in the winter months. Even in the rains boats cannot, and ordinarily do not, go higher up than the Ambari Bunder in Devagram. Down to the year 1890 the river had a powerful current. During the rains of that year

Present condition of the river.

[8] Martin's Eastern India, Vol. III, pages 380-82.

there was a heavy flood, and its waters, forsaking the old bed near the northern frontier, poured down south-west into its tributary the Dipa, through a creek and *beel* called the Sukani, in the north-west of Taluk Banshraja No. II. Ever since the Raidak has been flowing through the bed of the Dipa, and has virtually abandoned its old magnificent channel above the point of junction with the Dipa below Devagram. Before this change Taluks Barakodali and Devagram were in a prosperous condition. The marts of Baramahadev in the former, and of Ambari in the latter, were then flourishing centres of business, and commanded a good river traffic. The portion of the river, south of the junction of the Dipa, has a wide channel and passes a large volume of water, and is navigable to large boats all the year round. There is now practically no mart on its banks on the Cooch Behar side of the river, except that of Ambari in Devagram, which, however, is a little in the interior, lying about a mile north of the mouth of the Dipa-Raidak. There are several ferries on the river belonging to the State. The one below Balabhut at the crossing of the Dhubri Road is important. There are four others further down in the south of Balabhut and in Jhawkuti.

Marts on its bank.

Ferries.

Tributaries of the Raidak.

The chief feeders of the river are, to begin from the east, the Dipa-Raidak, the Gadadhar, and the Kaljani. Of these the Kaljani has already been noticed. The course of the remaining two will now be briefly traced.

The Gadadhar.—To begin with the Gadadhar. It is a small stream which enters the State from the north between Taluks Khashbas and Chhat Rampur, and flows south, crossing the Lawkuti Road in the east of Taluk Ghogarkuti. It turns south-east from the east of Taluk Dewcharai, and flows in that direction till it reaches Taluk Krishnapur, from the north-east of which it pours south, and, crossing the Dhubri Road about a mile north of the frontiers, leaves the State from the south of the same Taluk. It has then a short south-easterly course through Gaibari in Rangpur, after which it falls into the Sankos in the west of Taluk Balabhut, a little north of the mouth of the Kaljani. This river was formerly called *Dhersi* in its upper course, and *Khora* in the lower. The name Gadadhar is of a comparatively recent date. The channel actually passes a current of the Dhersi, a stream, which rises in the Bhutan Hills south of Sachaphoo, and flows south by the west of Mahakalguri, till it comes into the State in the north-east of Dewanbas. The Gadadhar, a tributary of the Kaljani, as already noticed, flows on its west, and sends out a branch eastward to fall into the Dhersi about 10 miles north of the Cooch Behar frontiers. As the greater portion of the waters of the Gadadhar now

Dhersi and Khora.

Origin of the name Gadadhar.

flows through the bed of the Dhersi by that cross channel, the river has come to be called the Gadadhar. The lower section of the river is sometimes designated the Khora, from the fact of a stream of that name having fallen into it in the south-east of Taluk Khorarpar, about a mile north of the place where the Law-kuthi Road now crosses the river. This Khora seems to be no other than the old bed of the Dhersi, which formerly entered the State, a short way east of where it now comes in, and is called the Gadadhar.

The portion of the channel of the river, from below Taluk Santospur down to the crossing of the Dhubri Road in Krishnapur, represents the old bed of the Kaljani, which in Major Rennell's time, as already noticed, used to flow east from that point, and fall into the Raidak by the north of Taluk Balabhut opposite the Kherbari Bunder in Goalpara. A branch of the river used to go south from the curve below Dhadiyal, and, flowing by the west of Balabhut, fall into the Sankos a little north of the present junction of the Gadadhar. The section of the river south of Krishnapur was not then in existence. This was opened about 25 years ago, and has since been the main channel of the river. The channels in the north and west of Balabhut are now dead.

Character of the river.

The Gadadhar has a current all round the year. It becomes shallow in winter, and is then fordable in many parts of its course. Boats of 50 maunds burden can come up to Krishnapur. The banks are steep and the bed is narrow. There are ferries on the river at the crossings of the several roads.

The Dipa-Raidak.—The Dipa, or more properly the Dipak, is the next tributary, and flows almost parallel to the Gadadhar at a distance of about 3 miles in the east. The uppermost portion of this river as far as Dhalpal was formerly called the Dhersi, being a current from the old Dhersi flowing in the west and feeding the Gadadhar, as already noticed; in its middle from Dhalpal to the south of Andaran-Phulbari, it was called the Lohagir; and in the south, from the south of Andaran-Phulbari to its mouth, the Dipa. The Lohagir and the Dipa are in fact branches of the Raidak, having issued out of its right bank. The former came out of the parent stream from near the borders in Taluk Dorko, and, flowing south-east fell into the Dhersi below Dhalpal; and the latter left the Raidak in the south-west of Taluk Bara Salbari about half a mile west of where the Rangbarsooti or Ghoramara falls into it, and in a south-easterly course of about 5 miles joined the united current of the Dhersi and the Lohagir in the south-east of Andaran-Phulbari. The source of the Lohagir had been closed, and its connection with

the Dhersi also cut off, by the silting up of the mouth before Mr. Pemberton's survey of 1858, and the section of the river between Raidak and Dhersi had come to be called the Sukni-Nadi, or the dry stream. The channel was kept alive by a current of the Dhersi, and the whole was an insignificant stream till 1890, when the water of the Raidak flowed into the Lohagir through the old stream Sukni-Nadi in the north-west of Banshraja No. II, and considerably added to the size and force of the river. Ever since the greater part of the waters of the Raidak has been passing through this channel; and as the stream is now virtually the Raidak flowing through the old bed of the Dipa, the river from the north end of the Lohagir to the mouth of the Dipa below Devagram, is called the Dipa-Raidak. The Dhersi, which was practically the main stream before 1890, now serves as a tributary to the river, falling into it, as it did of yore, in Taluk Dhalpal. The Dipa-Raidak thus now issues out of the Raidak in the north-east of Taluk Dorko, and, flowing by Andaran-Phulbari, Chamta, Diparpar, and Rajarkuti, Taluks on its right bank, falls into the Raidak, through the mouth of the old Dipa. The current is strong, and is still cutting away lands on either side, and the bed has not yet been fully formed. The river is navigable in all seasons. The Phulbari Bunder in Taluk Andaran-Phulbari stands on its right bank. The merchants here largely export rice, paddy, jute, mustard-seed and oil by the river to marts of Eastern Bengal, such as Serajgunj, Manikgunj, and Narayangunj. There are six ferries on the river plying all round the year. The principal of these is the one below the police-station of Phulbari at the crossing of the Lawkuti Road.

Only lately the Head-quarters of the Tufangunj Sub-division have been established on its right bank near the Fulbari Bunder, and the place is fast growing into importance.

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(6).—THE GADADHAR AND ITS TRIBUTARIES.

The eastern most river is the Gadadhar, and a big and mighty river it is. It is otherwise called *Sankos* or, more correctly, *Svarnakosha*. It has formed the eastern boundary of the State from the time of Maharaja Naranarayan, when the old Cooch Behar Kingdom or Kamrup was divided between that monarch and his brother Sukladhvaja, and the eastern half, of which modern Assam forms a part, commencing from the east bank of the river, was given to the latter. But there has been a change in the lower course of the river since, as will be noticed below. It has at

present a course of only 10 miles through the State, and bears a close resemblance to the Jaldhaka, both in respect of the width of the channel, and the turbulent character of the stream. The bed is shelving towards the left bank, and deep towards the right, and has gravels throughout.

Course of the river.

The Gadadhar, which in its upper course is now called the *Sankos*, and in its lower the *Gangadhar*, comes from the territories of Independent Bhutan, and after a course of 7 miles through the Duars, the first five of which form the boundary between the Western and Eastern Duars, and the lower two lie through the Guma Duars, enters the State from the east in the south-east of Taluk Garbhanga, just where a small stream of the name of *Takulla* falls into it from the north. From the mouth of the Takulla the river flows south-east, and then south, along the north-west of Taluk Falimari, when it receives on its right bank the river Jorai in the south of Garbhanga, and the Raidak in the south of Jaldhoya. In the south-east of Falimari, just as the river doubles the western point of Taluk Pherusabari, a small stream called the *Dawdkhan* falls into it. From this point downward the river roughly forms the eastern boundary of Cooch Behar, although a big old *char* on its left bank opposite Bhanukumari belongs to the State. Then, leaving the old mouth of the Raidak in the south-west of Pherusabari, and the dried-up source of the Mara-Sankos in the north-east of Lawkuti, the outlying Cooch Behar Taluk Chhat Bara Lawkuti lying on its left bank, about a mile removed from the bed, it leaves the State for the Assam District of Goalpara, through which its course lies generally in a south-easterly direction, until it joins the Brahmaputra. A short way above the junction the river meets its oldest channel, the western Sankos or Raidak, and, spreading out in several branches, meets again to fall into the Brahmaputra at a place named Nunkhawa, although there are some other outlets higher up.

Changes in its course.

This river too, short as its course is within the State, is not without its share of changes in its course. To begin from the north, the river, only in recent years, flowed in a big curve by the north of Taluk Falimari before it reached the mouth of the Takulla. The Goalpara Taluk Majerdabri remained wholly on its right bank. About the year 1883, the curve was shortened by about half a mile by the river cutting through the south of the arm of Majerdabri, and, althouth the two ends of the curve still touched Falimari, the apex of the bend shifted up into Majerdabri. By a second shifting in 1889, the curve was altogether avoided, and the river flowed due west through Majerdabri,

leaving the source of the Dawdkhan far in the south. A great change, however, took place in the course of the river near Lawkuti in the beginning of the present century. Instead of flowing south by the east of Taluk Bhanukumari as at present, the river formerly went south-east, and, almost completely encompassing our outlying Taluk Chhat Bara Lawkuti, returned west, and, in a curve, flowed south-east by the east of Lawkuti, after having sent off a branch south-west from the north of that Taluk. This branch represents the oldest course of the river, and was the main channel when Cooch Behar came to be separated from Assam in Maharaja Naranarayan's time. After going by the north, west and south of Lawkuti, and, leaving the Baxigunj Hat on its left or east bank, it flowed generally along the eastern boundary of the State, and was designated the Sankos. It was joined by the Raidak in Taluk North Jhawkuti, as noticed in connection with the Raidak, and thus was formed the river that now flows by the east of Taluks Manshai, Ambari and Balabhut. Gradually, the curve around Chhat Bara Lawkuti was avoided, and the river flowed directly south from the mouth of the Raidak below Jaldhoya. The portion of the branch between Lawkuti and Jhawkuti, now called Mara-Sankos, became dead, and the current was wholly confined to the channel in the south, called the Gadadhar. When Dr. Buchannan visited the locality he found the Sankos a dry channel. "This river (Gadadhar)", observes the Doctor in his Account of Rangpur, "reaches the boundary of Vihar, has a large clear stream, and soon after receives from the west the Raidak which is said to be the largest. Immediately below the junction, the dry channel called Chhannakos is sent off, as I have already described."[9]

Mara Sankos represents oldest course

The Dawdkhan is the only branch the Gadadhar sends out from Cooch Behar. This is a small stream, which issues out of the eastern head of the curve of the Gadadhar in the north of Falimari, and, flowing by the east and south of that Taluk, reverts to the parent stream in the south-west of Falimari. Since the shifting of the Gadadhar northward into Majerdabri, the source of the Dawdkhan in Falimari has been closed. It is now fed by a stream from the Gadadhar flowing south through the east of Majerdabri. The bed of the stream is well-nigh full of grass jungle, and becomes almost dry in hot-weather months.

Dawdkhan the only branch.

Of the tributaries of the Gadadhar, the Raidak is by far the most important. It is the easternmost of the two rivers of the same name, and is formed within the Western Duars by the union of two rivers, the *Ghoramara* and the *Kulkuli*, both of which come from the southern slope of the Bhutan Hills. As already noticed,

The tributaries. Raidak.

[9] Martin's Eastern India, Vol. III., page 384, para. 2.

it enters the State between Taluks Khagribari and Rampur, and, after flowing through Madhurbasha, Takoyamari and Jaldhoya, falls into the Gadadhar in the south of the last-named Taluk. Only a short time ago, the river, instead of flowing east through Jaldhoya, poured south by the east of Mahishkhuchi, and, passing the Bunder and Police out-post in that Taluk, fell into the Gadadhar in the south-west of Pherusabari. In 1893 the bed by the east of Mahishkhuchi was abandoned, and the river flowed east through Jaldhoya to fall into the Gadadhar as described above. The old bed although not quite dry becomes very shallow and fordable everywhere during the winter months. At the time of Dr. Buchanan's visit in the beginning of the present century the Raidak was larger than the Gadadhar. It is not, however, a big river now, and is not navigable.

Jorai.

The next tributary is the Jorai. It is a small stream rising in the Bhalka Duar, the upper portion of which is called the *Gholani*. It touches the State in the west of Taluk Dewtikhata Naziran, and, forming the boundary-line for about two miles, comes into the interior at the north-east corner of Taluk Rampur, and shortly after receives from the west a creek called Garkhola Nadi, which also comes in from the Bhalka Duar. It then flows through Rampur and by the west of Garbhanga until it falls into the Gadadhar.

Takulla

The last, the Takulla, is a small creek which comes from the Bhalka Duar, and forms the north-eastern boundary of Taluk Dewtikhata Naziran. It then leaves the State for Majerdabri, and re-enters it in the north-east of Garbhanga to form the eastern boundary of that Taluk, until it falls into the Gadadhar, just as the latter turns south-west from the north of Falimari, about a couple of miles north-east of the site of the old Berbera Bunder in Jaldhoya.

SECTION III.

MARSHES AND BEELS.

The country abounds in marshes, *beels* and small pools of stagnant water. These are nothing but the remnants of the old beds of rivers, which have not wholly dried up, and which in many places faithfully retain the names of the rivers which they represent. They go by the names of *Chhara*, *Dara*, *Beel*, *Doba or Kura*, and are numerous in those parts of the State which have been the most

constant play-ground of the shifting rivers. They are the nurseries of fish and tortoise, so to speak, a very large number of which are annually caught in them. They are also used by the people for steeping and washing their jute, and watering their cattle. All such marshes and pools as are above ten standard bighas in area are directly held by the State, and let out in farm, usually for a period of three years, by auction. These leases are often very profitable as fish is much in demand and fetches a high price in the local markets. The people living in the immediate neighbourhood of these fisheries also make their own terms with the farmers for catching fish as well as steeping jute in them, and usually pay in paddy and jute fibres, the money-equivalent of which is often as good as a couple of rupees per head per annum.

The marshes and *Chharas* are frequented by game birds in the rainy season and in winter, and these are plentiful during the six months from July to January. Snipe, golden plover, partridge, wild duck, *kadma*, and *desantari* are very often met with. Among other marsh-produce may be mentioned *dhenp*, or the seed of *kumud* or water-lily, *sola*, and shells, from the last of which lime is prepared for use with *pan*.

Of the numerous *beels* and *chharas*, the following are the most important :—

Hanshkhawa, *Bherbheri*, *Champaguri*, *Mara Lawtara*, *Baishguri*, and *Daiyaler-Chhara* in the Sudder Sub-division ; *Sukani*, *Goru-marar-Chhara*, *Dhadiyal*, *Durlarer-Chhara*, and *Bauser-Chhara* in Tufangunj ; *Pakihaga*, *shasthia*, *Sukdal*, *Shaheber-Chhara*, *Karala*, *Lawchapra*, and *Beel Shitai* in Dinhata ; *Panigram*, *Pakihaga*, *Moranga*, *Bowlbari*, *Bhogmara*, and *Kawardara* in Mathabhanga ; and *Sarohati*, *Jagatber*, and the *beels* in Nijtaraf in Mekhligunj.

These and other *beels* and *chharas* are, however, gradually silting up, and the supply of fish and game is becoming smaller every year. The earthquake of 1897 has served to greatly upheave the beds of many *beels* and water-courses, and hastened the silting operation which had already commenced. The land, which is thus gained, is available for cultivation, and often grows excellent *boa* paddy. The draining of the *beels* does not find favour with the people. These reservoirs of water have their own use, as noticed above, and cannot be called unnecessary in a country like Cooch Behar.

CHAPTER II.

SOIL AND CLIMATE.

SECTION I.

Soil.

Soil sandy and loose.

The soil of Cooch Behar is of alluvial formation, and is for the most part sandy and loose. Clay lands form but a small proportion, and, except in some Taluks on the banks of the Karatoya, good and stiff clay cannot be found in any part of the State. Of the cultivated lands the surface soil is loam only to a depth of some 3 feet, and sometimes even less than that; under the loam it is all bare sand. The land is generally very fertile. Good crops are often obtained with a comparatively small amount of labour and expense. By far the greater part of the soil is of various shades of ash colour. In the north-eastern part of the country bordering on the Eastern Duars of the Goalpara District, a black loam is found far surpassing all other sorts of soil in richness. The native fertility of the soil is the greatest in the east, the portion of the country east of the Kaljani possessing the richest of the lands of Cooch Behar. Next comes the tract between the Jaldhaka and the Teesta, although there are detached local areas on the west of the latter, such as Taluks Hemkumari and Samilabas, which yield to none in point of fertility.

Fertility of different soils.

High lands, or *dangas* as they are called, are generally more sandy than the low lands, and are also less fertile. When properly manured, these, however, yield very rich crops, such as tobacco, sugar-cane, betel-nut and the like. They also grow bamboo without any extraneous help. But large areas of this kind of soil are, unproductive, and nothing will grow on them but a short miserable pasture or a few stunted trees, giving a bare look to the country.

The low lands around *beels* and marshes, with all their innate richness, are of very little use to the people. They come under water at the first fall of rain, and emerge out of it not long before the setting in of the rains. In years of comparative drought they can grow a sort of winter paddy called *boa* or sown, as distinguished from the transplanted, paddy, but the chance is so uncertain that they are as a rule left untouched.

The sort of land intermediate between the two, not very high nor very low, is the richest. This is generally of a dull ash

colour, and produces jute and paddy. About 60 per cent. of the surface of the country consists of this kind of soil. It is a loam of a high order, and can raise two crops in the year.

Exhaustion of soil.

No manure is ordinarily used in this State, excepting for tobacco fields ; the soil is therefore exhausted by over-cultivation. Virgin soil is rich and it produces a good crop. Low waste lands with reed and *poondi* jungles on them are specially noted for the innate richness of the soil. This fertility does not, however, last long ; and it is a matter of every day observation that in the jungly tracts, especially in the east of the country, exhaustion generally sets in after a couple of years' cultivation. *Payasthi* lands, or newly formed *chars*, such as have a crust of fresh loam brought in by the rivers, possess very rich soil. This fertility varies in different parts of the State. The *chars* of the Tista, for instance, can grow good crops within 3 or 4 years of their formation, while those in other rivers do not generally become fit for cultivation till after a decade.

Chars.

SECTION II.

Climate.

Climate.

The climate of Cooch Behar is damp and malarious, and is to some extent enervating. The east-wind which blows during the greater part of the year, is full of moisture, and is injurious to health. The dry west-wind which sets in with the spring, and prevails from March to May, is the best current of air available in this country. The cool refreshing southern breeze of Lower Bengal is very rare here.

Rain-fall.

The average annual rain-fall for the last 20 years is 133·53 inches. With the exception of the years 1891-92 and 1896-97 when it was 90·71 and 85·44 inches, respectively, the rain-fall has always been above 105 inches, and it was only in two years that the quantity was confined even to that figure. It has been above the average in nine years, two of which mark the end of the eighth, five fall within the ninth, and the remaining two mark the beginning of the tenth decade of the present century. The heaviest rain-falls took place in the years, 1878-79, 1890-91 and 1892-93, when the quantity registered amounted to 194·13, 187·41 and 179·17 inches, respectively.

The normal rain fall of the different months, being the average for the last 20 years, is given below in inches :—

January	...	...	0·37
February	...	...	0·46
March	...	...	1·95
April	...	...	5·90
May	...	...	16·13
June	...	...	31·83
July	...	...	26·98
August	...	...	22·4
September	...	...	22·26
October	...	...	4·96
November	...	...	0·21
December	...	...	0·09

Rainy months.

Although the averages show rain-fall in every month, there has been actual fall of rain every month from April to October in the course of the last 20 years. The chance of the falling of showers in November is as $6\frac{1}{2}$: 20, and in the preceding months of January, February and March as 12:20, 16:20 and 17:20, respectively.

Seasons.

Roughly speaking, there are only two well-defined seasons in Cooch Behar, as in fact in all the neighbouring British Districts : namely, winter and summer. Winter sets in fairly in November and summer in April, the months of March and October marking the fag-ends of the two seasons. The severity of cold begins to die out in February and that of heat in September, and these months partake more of the nature of the season preceding than of that following them, and may be fairly included within the former. The months which mark the state of transition from cold to heat, and from heat to cold, are March and October, respectively, and may be aptly called the spring and autumn of Cooch Behar. Of the twelve months of the year, four mark the cold weather, and six the hot weather, the remaining two indicating a weather of a milder form. The rains set in by the middle of May and last till the middle of September. They thus extend over the greater portion of summer, and form no independent season themselves. It is hot during the rains ; only the atmosphere slightly cools down after a good shower of rain, which, however, has no permanent effect upon the heat of the season.

Winter and summer.

The rains.

The rains of Cooch Behar are proverbially long and persistent. In June and July, and sometimes even in August, it rains almost continually day and night for days and sometimes for weeks together. During these outbursts of foul weather the low lands

and the fields are submerged, the rivers are flooded, the roads come under water at places, and communication becomes difficult if not impossible. The prices of food grains go up, and the suffering of men and cattle becomes great. Formerly the duration of the rainy days was inconveniently long. It has become shorter now-a-days.

Temperature.

The climate of Cooch Behar cannot be said to be mild, and is certainly of a severer form than that of the greater portion of Lower Bengal. The highest heat recorded by the thermometer in the shade in the day-time is between 92 and 93 degrees, which generally happens in June or July, and the lowest 49 degrees, ordinarily in January. These months therefore mark the mid-summer and mid-winter, respectively. The heat in the morning of the winter months reaches a maximum varying from 75 to 85 degrees, and that in the hot weather months, from 86 to 92 degrees. The difference between the maximum and the minimum temperatures, or the *range* as it is technically called, varies from 23 to 30 degress, from November to February, and from 14 to 22 degrees during the remainder of the year.

The generation of dew begins in the autumn, and continues throughout the spring, and indeed in all seasons, when there is no rain. Exposure in the early morning, and late in the evening is thus injurious to health.

CHAPTER III.

TERRITORIAL DIVISION.

SECTION I.

Taluks, Parganas and Sub-divisions.

Parganas, Gerds, Bilats, and Taluks.

The fiscal divisions of the country are called *Parganas*. The *Gerds* and *Bilats* are portions of these Parganas; they are, however, only a few in number and are not found in every Pargana. The smallest fiscal sub-divisions are called *Taluks*, which form the unit of the territorial sub-division of the State. Several Taluks go to make up a Gerd or a Bilat, and a larger number, a Pargana. All these divisions and sub-divisions have got defined boundaries always capable of being correctly laid.

Their number and names.

The State comprises *six* Parganas, named, *Mekhligunj*, *Mathabhanga*, *Lalbazar*, *Dinhata*, *Cooch Behar*, and *Tufangunj*; *four* Gerds, called *Khagrabari*, *Teldhar*, *Chawra*, and *Shandara*; and *one* Bilat, commonly known as *Bilat-Bishguri*. The Gerd and the Bilat are included within the Parganas named above. The Taluks are 1202 in number.

Situation.

The western part of the State, which abuts on the District of Jalpaiguri, is called Pargana Mekhligunj; while the tract lying east of the river Kaljani is known as Pargana Tufangunj. Pargana Lalbazar lies south of the Bura Dharla, and west of the Singimari; and Pargana Mathabhanga occupies the tract north of it, bounded on the west by Mekhligunj, and on the east by the Torsa. Of what then remains of the country, the southern half represents Pargana Dinhata, and the northern half, situated between the Torsa and the Kaljani, makes up Pargana Cooch Behar.

Some of the detached tracts of land situated within Chakla Boda in the District of Jalpaiguri, constitute Gerds Khagrabari and Teldhar. There are several other outlying tracts in the Districts of Jalpaiguri, Rangpur and Goalpara; but these are included in one or other of the above-mentioned Parganas. A tract of country some six miles in breadth, lying in the north of Pargana Cooch Behar, is called Gerd Chawra, and a similar tract in the north and of Tufangunj, Gerd Shandara. The eastern portion of Pargana Tufangunj, lying east of the Raidak, is called the Bilat Bishguri.

Comparative size of Parganas and Taluks.

Of the Parganas Cooch Behar is the largest, being about 315 square miles in area, and Lalbazar the smallest, containing 175 square miles. Mekhligunj contains 237 Taluks; Mathabhanga

189 ; Lalbazar, 131 ; Cooch Behar, 275 ; Dinhata 256 ; and Tufangunj 115. The average extent of a Taluk is about one square mile. It is the largest in Pargana Tufangunj, being 1·62 square miles, and smallest in Pargana Mekhligunj, being about ·81 square mile.

Old division into Mouzas, Zillas, Toks and Gerds.

Formerly the whole of the State was parcelled out into Mouzas, closely resembling the modern Taluk, and, these were grouped under the wider sub-divisions of Zillas, Toks and Gerds. Mr. Ahmuty's Quinquennial Register of 1799, which is the oldest record on the subject now extant, gives 1,099 different Mouzas. There were then four Zillas—Gitaldah, Mathabhanga, Durga Nagar and Lalbazar ; one Tok of Mekhligunj ; and four Gerds—Patchhara, Teldhar, Uchalpukhari and Maraghat.

The sub-division into Taluks and Parganas.

These sub-divisions have in course of time ceased to be retained, and the modern ones of Parganas and Taluks have been substituted in their place. They were not compact and well arranged. There was a good deal of confusion regarding the boundaries of a Mouza. A Mouza was not always confined within one boundary, but was often composed of different plots of lands situated apart and scattered over a large area. In the course of the Thakbust survey of 1868-69 Mr. O'Donel found it difficult to retain the old sub-divisions into Mouzas, and simplified matters by adopting natural boundaries for the Taluks, and incorporating all the contiguous lands within one boundary under one distinct name. Where two or more plots of land of the same Mouzawar name had each a different boundary, they were allowed to remain as such but were regarded as distinct geographical divisions of the same name, differentiated by such additions as Part I, Part II, and so forth, or by an adjective specifically setting forth the distinction, or marking the locality. We have thus Bansraja *Part I* and Bansraja *Part II ; Kumai* Fulbari, *Andaran* Fulbari, and *Chhat* Fulbari ; *Surreswar* Jayaduar, *Dewankot* Jayaduar ; and so on. When after grouping the lands under distinct boundaries, plots still remained which could not be conveniently brought under one or other of the groups, they were formed into separate Taluks and named after the cultivator or the Jotedar. Thus there are the Taluks *Raghunandan*, *Indranarayan*, Jote *Bholanath*, and so forth. This procedure generally attained a good result, and the Taluks were made more compact and distinct sub-divisions of the country than had hitherto been the case with the Mouzas.

How this was effected.

In Pargana Mekhligunj, however, Mr. O'Donel failed to achieve an equally satisfactory result. As a portion of this Pargana, called Rahimgunj, being the tract of country lying on the west side of the Bura Tista, had been surveyed before his operations commenced,

the boundaries of the Taluks in this tract, whatever might have been the confusion in the beginning, had been definitely fixed and all disputes regarding them had been over. Although, therefore, at Mr. O'Donel's time the objectionable divisions into tracts of the same name situated apart remained, the uncertainty regarding the boundaries thereof was not in existence; it was thus thought proper to retain the demarcation previously made, and the old nomenclature of each Taluk. A similar procedure was followed also in the remaining portion of that Pargana, namely, Mekhligunj proper. Thus there we have several groups of Taluks of the same name without any distinguishing prefix or affix to the names, as in the other Parganas. The wider division into Parganas was also adopted by Mr. O'Donel, and each division was named after the important place situated in it.

The big rivers are not included within the boundaries of the Taluks which lie on their banks, but have a separate circuit of their own. The big *chars* in these rivers, that were in existence at the time of Mr. O'Donel's survey, were constituted into separate Taluks, and named after the rivers in which they had been formed. The *Chars* of the Tista thus form a Taluk by themselves, named Tistanadi Payasti. Similarly there are the Taluks Jaridhurlanadi, and Singmari. Creeks and small streams are generally included within the adjacent Taluks.

Administrative sub-divisions.

For administrative purposes the State is divided into five sub-divisions, namely, Sudder, Tufangunj, Dinhata, Mathabhanga, and Mekhligunj. The sudder sub-division comprises the whole of Pargana Cooch Behar, with the exception of eleven Taluks in the east, which together with Pargana Tufangunj form the Tufangunj sub-division. The Pargana Dinhata and the southern half of Pargana Lalbazar constitute the Dinhata sub-division, while the sub-division of Mathabhanga is composed of the remainder of Lalbazar, and the whole of Pargana Mathabhanga. The Mekhligunj sub-division is formed by Pargana Mekhligunj, including Gerds Khagrabari Teldhar and other detached tracts situated within Chakla Boda in Jalpaiguri District.

Their history

The sub-divisional system of administration was not adopted before 1870, in which year after the conclusion of Mr. O'Donel's survey, each of the six Parganas was constituted into a distinct sub-division by Colonel Haughton. The muffassil sub-divisions were at first concerned with the collection of revenue only; gradually civil, criminal and other jurisdictions were attached to them for the convenience of the public. After a few years the sub-divisions of Lalbazar and Tufangunj were abolished and the Taluks under them

were distributed among the other sub-divisions. The Tufangunj sub-division was, however, re-established in 1892 with a part of sudder sub-division. It had at first only a Tehsil office which was located at the sudder. It came to be vested with the ordinary jurisdictions of a sub-division in May, 1896, when the head-quarters were removed to Fulbari on the Dipa-Raidak.

SECTION II.

Chief Towns, Bunders and Hats.

Capital.

The capital of the State is named after the country, and is called Cooch Behar. It is the first city in the State, and a place of much commercial importance. Next stand Haldibari, Mekhliganj, Mathabhanga, Dinhata, and Tufangunj. These are the chief muffassil towns, and are large centres of trade and commerce. Besides, there are numerous Bunders, or marts scattered all over the State which are also places of traffic, but are of less importance. There are then the Hats or village markets, where a local trade is carried on, on fixed days of the week. These will be noticed in due order.

Chief muffassil towns.

Hats or markets.

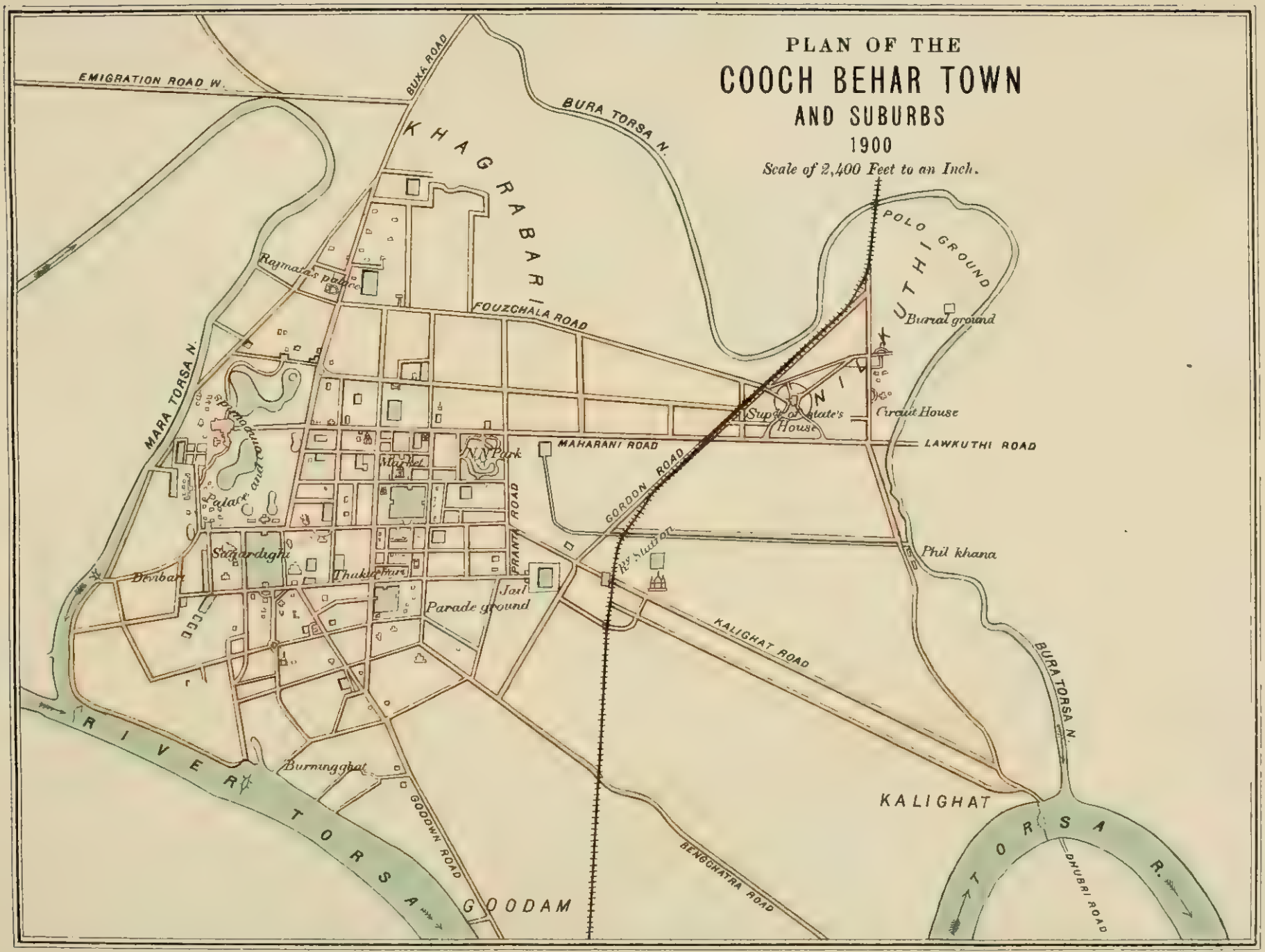
Cooch Behar.

The town of Cooch Behar stands on the left bank of the Torsa, the eastern channel of the main river, at a distance of about 7 miles from the point of bifurcation below Taluk Kalpani. On the west lies the deserted loop of the river called Mara Torsa. On the east is the bed of the Bura or old Torsa which flows from north-west to south-east. The irregular shaped tract enclosed within these beds contains the city, which is situated in the north latitude 26° 19′ 36″ and east longitude 89° 28′ 53″. It is about two miles from north to south, and a little above a mile from east to west. It has an area of about two square miles and a half, and a population of 11,491 souls.

Places of importance in the town.

Cooch Behar is the principal seat of Government, and contains the Palace, and the residences of the different members of His Highness's family. The Council House and the offices of the Members of the Council and Departmental Heads, and of the upper grades of the Executive and the Judiciary are located in the town. There is a Hospital and Charitable Dispensary under the management of a Civil Surgeon. There is also an Ayurvedic Dispensary where treatment is obtained under the Indian system of medicine. A first grade College teaching up to the M. A. Standard of the

Litho. S. I. O. Calcutta



Reg. No. 229 1... of the ...ooch Behar State.—Nov. 02.—3,000

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To face page 52.



Photo-Block.

INTERIOR OF THE PALACE SMALL DRAWING ROOM *Page 52.*

Calcutta University, with the Law Classes and the Collegiate High School, called Jenkins School, attached to it, a Model Vernacular School, a Night School, a Girls' School, a Madrasa, and a Nagri School make up the educational institutions of the town. A Bazar containing a large number of shops of Marawari and Bengali merchants furnishes articles of local and foreign production of every description and variety. There are two markets located in two different parts of the town, one of which is called the Calicagunj Bazar, and is held in the morning, while the other, called the Taha Bazar, is held from 3 o'clock in the afternoon to 9 o'clock in the night, and is accommodated in a large, handsome building illuminated in the night with gas light. The State Thakurbaris, Jaina Temples, Mahommedan Mosques, Brahmo Somajes and an English Church are among the places of worship. The Sagardighi square, the Parade ground, the Narendranarayan Park, and the Keshabasram are the chief public grounds and places of recreation.

Arrangement of the town.

The town is picturesquely laid out by means of straight and broad roads which intersect each other generally at right angles. Avenues of Sissoo, Kadam, Mango and Talli trees and other evergreens border the big roads. The blocks formed by the intersection of the roads are filled with tanks, gardens and houses. The town is neat and orderly, and presents a charming view to an observer from a high station. Domes and minarets with white outlines, seem to peep out from among the surrounding luxuriant verdure, while the Torsa is seen in the back ground, winding its silvery length through forests, fields and green orchards.

Birds' eye view of Cooch Behar.

Town proper.

Suburbs.

The city consists of two parts : the town proper and the suburbs, the latter containing among others, the Bunder at Khagrabari in the north, and the European quarters at Nilkuthi in the east within a loop of the Bura Torsa.

Roads.

The town contains 24 miles of roads of which ten miles and a half are metalled. The drains are *kuchha* and slope towards the east and the south-west, the whole drainage being ultimately emptied into the bed of the Torsa and the Bura Torsa. The principal road in the town is the continuation of the Emigration Road which coming from the north now stops at the north-east corner of a large tank called Sagardighi. It is named the Puranabas or old residence road, from the fact of the residence of the old Maharajas having formerly stood on its side, at the place where the Rajmata's house is now situated. The palace and the palace-grounds with the Rajmata or Dowager Moharani's residence occupy most of the blocks in the west, while the Dangar Aye's Thakurbari, and several other private dwelling houses line along its east. From the south-west of the big square which contains the Sagardighi, a road goes south

to the Torsa, and at the Ratidev Buxi's Ghat joins an embankment which from that point goes west and covers the west of the town along the new and the old bed of the Torsa, and serves as a protection against the floods of the river. From the south-east corner of the Sagardighi square the Jail Road goes east, and ends on the west of the Jail in the Pranta Road, which stretches northwards as far as the Fouzchala or Military Road. It formerly marked the eastern boundary of the town, whence it has got its name *pranta*, extremity. The Fouzchala Road, which practically marks the northern limit of the town along a considerable portion of the north boundary, issues out of the Puranabas Road just in front of the Rajmata's house and goes east to meet the Gordon Road, and thence stretches north to terminate in the Bauti Road near the Torsa bridge in the north of Nilkuthi. Over the northern portion of the Gardon and the Fauzchala road the Railway now passes. Between the Pranta Road and the Puranabas Road there are two other important roads running parallel to them through the busiest part of the town, and joining the Jail Road with the Fouzchala Road. The one on the east passes by the east of the Bazar, the Lalldighi, the Hospital and the old Victoria College, while the other passes through the Bazar, and by the west of the Thakurbari and Bairagidighi and ends in the Godown road at the south-east corner of the Calicagunj Bazar otherwise known as the Nutan Bazar. These are intersected by four cross roads going east and west. They all issue out of the Puranabas Road and end in the Pranta Road. The northernmost is the Rajguru's Road emanating from the south-west corner of Rajguru's house, and passes by the north of the old Aidan Panthashala. Next is the Maharani's Road, the largest of all the town roads, which starts from the eastern gate of the palace and passes by the south of the Post Office through the Bazar. It crosses the Pranta Road at the north-east corner of the Narendranarayan Park, and goes by the south of Nilkuthi to the west bank of the Bura Torsa. The third is the Palashbari Road going by the north of the Laldighi and south of the Narendranarayan Park. The last is the Hospital Road, being a continuation of the Sagardighi square north, passing by the north of the New Dispensation Church and the Hospital. From the Pranta Road it goes south-east under the name of Suniti Road.

The Railway passes by the east of the town. The Cooch Behar station, and the Dakbanglow lie by the side the Suniti Road, not very far from the Jail.

In the southern part of the town the important roads are the Godown Road, going south from the Jail Road from the south-east corner of the Sagardighi ; the Bengchatra Road runing east by the



Photo-Litho

Survey of India Offices Calcutta, 1903

THE SAGAR, DIGHI SQUARE, EAST —*Page 55.*

south of the Parade ground ; and the Kalika Bazar Road joining the two abovenamed roads with the one which goes from the south-west corner of the Sagardighi to Rati Babu's Ghat, and passing by the north of the Nutan Bazar.

There are numerous other roads and lanes in the town for cross communication, all partaking of the character of the main streets in respect of straightness and neatness.

Tanks.

A most attractive and remarkable feature of the town is its tanks. These are deep reservoirs of clear, sweet and wholesome water, and are largely used by the citizens for washing and drinking purposes. The three most important are the Sagardighi, the Bairagidighi and the Laldighi. The Sagardighi is by far the largest and most important of all. It was excavated in the reign of Maharaja Harendranarayan in 1807. It is 954 feet in length and 536 feet in breadth. Standing as it does in the middle of a square lined with the Court houses and other public buildings, it presents the best view in the whole town. The entire breadth of the square in the north is fronted by a line of buildings the central one of which is the Council House, and accommodates the Civil and Session Judge's office and the Registration office on the ground floor. It has a long wing on each side of it, on the east as well as on the west, both of which are fronted by a run of verandahs on semicircular arches. The right wing contains the Record-rooms of the several departments, while the left accommodates the Excise Office, the Printing Office and the State press. On the east side of the square the northernmost structure is a building in the Gothic style of architecture and was originally meant for the Normal School. It subsequently came to accommodate the Revenue Courts at the Sudder. It now contains the Dewan's office with the Treasury and the subordinate revenue courts. In the extreme south is the office of the Superintendent of the State, with the Accountant General's Office on the ground floor. The Jenkins School is situated between these two and is of much architectural beauty. Opposite the Council House, on the south side of the square, is the Fouzdari Court, built on the standard plan of buildings of the Criminal Court of Lower Bengal. It accommodates the District Magistrate's office and the Courts of the Subordinate Magistracy, the Police Office and the Assistant Civil Judge's Office. The building on the left with corrugated iron roofing contains the Duar Office and the Office of the Superintendent of Works ; while the Municipal Office stands on the right. On the western row stands the Dewan's house on a raised piece of land in the north, commanding a very good view. The Landsdowne Hall erected in 1892, in commemoration of the visit of Lord Landsdowne, a Viceroy

The Sagardighi square.

and Governor-General of India, stands in the south. It is a large two storied building fronted with a square clock tower 79 feet high, and serves as the Masonic Lodge on the first floor ; while the ground floor contains the Public Hall of the town, and accommodates the Maharajah's Library.[10]

The Bairagidighi square.

A short way east of the Sagardighi is the Bairagidighi. Formerly there was a *basti* of Bairagis, a mendicant race of people of the Vaishnava Sect, on the west side of the tank ; from this it has derived its name. The tank was deepened and enlarged and brought up to its present shape in 1879-80. It is 446 feet long, and 440 feet broad, and has an average depth of 28 feet. The Bairagidighi square contains the Thakurbari and the Ananda Mayi Dharmashala on the north, the Victoria College on the east and the Brahma Samja and the Club on the south, the west side being occupied by private houses.

The Laldighi square.

At a little distance to the north is the Laldighi. The Hospital road goes east to west by its south. On the north of the square in which the Laldighi is situated is the market-place in front of which stands the Victoria Jubilee Tower erected by the citizens in 1887, in commemoration of the Jubilee of the reign of Her Gracious Majesty the Empress of India. The market place is a corrugated iron shed in double rows with ornamental cornices and gable fronts, and occupies the three sides of a quadrangle. The tower which rises on an open space in the south is octagonal in shape, 70 feet high, and is provided inside with a winding stair case. It has four stories, each of which opens on a hanging platform provided with a breast high parapet. The top is a dome on iron pillars with open sides, and forms a belfry. A great bell hangs in the middle and is rung whenever a fire breaks out in the town, as a warning to the fire brigade, as well as to the citizens. A comprehensive view of the town may be had from this tower. On the east side of the square is the Artisans' School, which formerly trained up artisans of several descriptions, but has in course of time

[10] This was the arrangement before the earthquake of June, 1897, which damaged or demolished most of the public buildings. At the present time the old Normal School building, of which the upper storey has been demolished, accommodates the Civil Judge's Office and part of the Malkuchery ; the Dewan's Office is located in the Jenkins School house, which together with the College has been removed to the stables near the Palace, in a portion of which the Press also has been housed ; the Council Office has been brought down to the ground floor on account of the demolition of the upper storey of the Central Building ; the Malkuchery Record Office has been placed in the old Liberary building, from which both the Public Works Office and the Duar Office have been removed to other places.



THE JUBILEE TOWER AND MARKET PLACE.—*Page 56.*

been converted into the workshop of the Public Works Department. A covered Bandstand lies on the south of this. On the south of the tank are the Sudder Police Station and the tent-godown. On the west are a mosque and a few shops. On the south of the Police Station, across the Hospital Road, is the Hospital and Charitable Dispensary.

The portion of the town south of the Jail Road contains very few public buildings. The Victoria College has already been noticed. There are two other Educational Institutions, the Sudder Model School, and the Suniti College for the education of girls, both of which are situated on the west side of the Godown road. The Boarding house stands towards the east of the Victoria College beyond the Parade ground, and accommodates the students of the College, and the boys of the distant relatives of His Highness the Maharaja.

The Jail.

On the east side of the Pranta Road is the State Jail. It has extensive grounds for vegetable gardens and also for the cultivation of paddy for the consumption of the jail population. The Jail premises consist of the *kucha* quarters for the prisoners, with a workshop, and a Hospital; and a pucca kitchen and bakery, and solitary imprisonment cells. They are built around a tank 300 feet long by 210 feet broad, the whole being surrounded by a high massive wall provided with watch towers. On both sides of the entrance on the west and touching the wall there are a suite of pucca rooms, opening into small verandahs along the gate way. The guards occupy the rooms in the north, those in the south being set apart for the office of the Superintendent and the store godown. The morgue stands on the north outside the main buildings.

The Palace.

The Palace.—From the north of the Sagardighi square commence the palace grounds, and extend northward along the west-side of the Puranabash road for a little less than a mile, the Torsa embankment marking the limits on the west all the while. They are nicely laid out and ornamented with tanks, *jhils* and parks. The palace stands more in the south than in the middle, at a distance of about 1100 feet from the Puranabash road, and faces the east. It is a large and magnificent edifice, beautiful in design and nice in execution. The exterior of an uniform brick colour, agreeably broken by the buff of the terra-cotta mouldings and key-stones, and the ash-hue of the numerous pilasters, towers and turrets, seen over the ornamental lakes through the dark folliage of the Park trees, presents a view at once grand and effective.

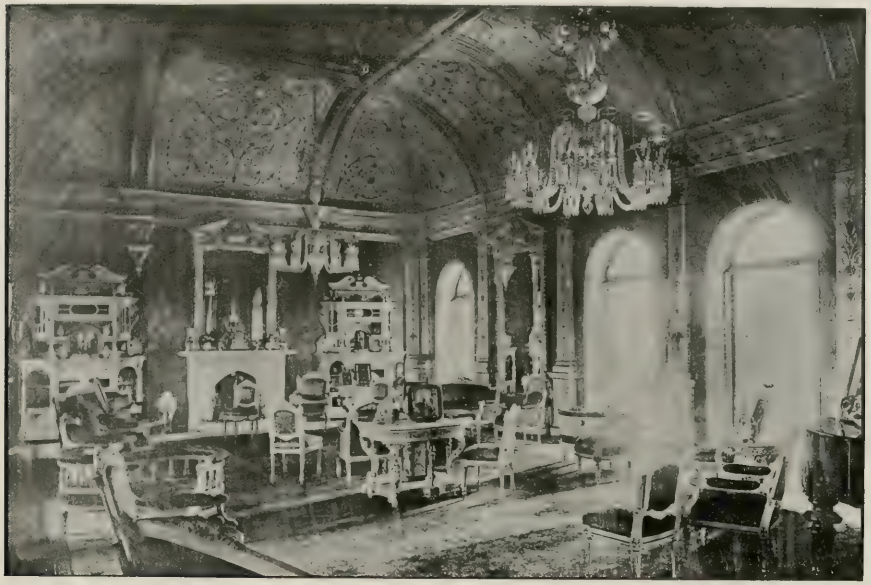
Mr. F. Barckly, C.E., the architect of the palace gives a general description of the building in the following terms :—

"The Cooch Behar Palace is designed after the Classical style of Architecture; it is on the main, with the exception of the three

pavilions on the roof, and the basement of the dome, a well defined two storied building raised 4 feet 9 inches above the ground surface. It covers an area of 51,309 square feet including the two court yards the area of which is 7,659 square feet ; it is 393 feet 7 inches long, from north to south, and 296 feet 2 inches, from east to west. On the ground floor the building contains a Durbar Hall 72′ × 65′ 5″, the central portion of which is covered in by an elegantly shaped metal dome surmounted by a lantern the top of which is 124 feet 10 inches above the ground, two porches one on the north and the other on the east or principal front of the building, five wooden stair cases of handsome design, one vestibule, twenty four rooms including Toshakhana rooms and six bath rooms. On the first floor the accommodation is as follows :— Fifteen bed rooms or dressing rooms, three drawing rooms, one billiard room, four Toshakhana rooms, eleven bathrooms, and a ladies' gallery and vestibule. Besides the five wooden staircases which are intended for the use of the occupants or visitors and the stairs to the ladies' gallery, the building is provided with five masonry circular staircases at the corners of the buildings, and two iron spiral stairs, for the use of the servants. The exterior of the masonry stairs is octagonal in shape, and instead of presenting a plain vertical surface, is pleasingly built in alternate groove and block courses ; these staircases are, with the expception of the one in the north-west corner of the building which is surmounted by an elegantly proportioned spire, covered in on the top by turrets having gracefully shaped cupolas which are finished off at the apex by neatly designed masonry finals.

"The Palace contains two court-yards, one 75′ 8″ × 76 9″ for the use of the Zenana, and the other 48′ 9″ × 38″ for the use of visitors. The court-yards are surrounded on the three sides by two super-imposed ranges of arcades which rest alternately on narrow and broad piers ; the faces of the broad piers are pleasingly relieved by Corinthian pilasters grouped in pairs. The cornices round the court-yards are plain and in keeping with the retired position of this part of the building ; the continuity and sameness in these cornices are very effectively broken at the first floor level by balconies, supported on gracefully curved and panelled masonry brackets which project out from the wall, and at roof level by large triangular and segmental pediments. The centre portions of the facades round the court-yards project a little beyond the regular line of the wall, and being surmounted by these pediments give an effective appearance to this portion of the building.

"I now come to the east or principal front of the building. This facade presents a grand and elegant appearance. It consists



INTERIOR OF THE PALACE—LARGE DRAWING ROOM. --*Page 58.*

of a range of arcades on the ground and first floors, and is accentuated in a very pleasing and happy manner at the north and south ends by the building projecting a little beyond the regular line at these portions, and in the centre by porch and basement of the dome. A very pleasing effect is produced in these arcades by the alternate use of narrow and broad piers : the narrow ones have a single Corinthian pilaster on the face, and the broad ones a wide rusticated pilaster in the centre with a Corinthian pilaster on either side of it. The caps and bases of the pilasters and the archivolt mouldings and key-stones are buff colour terra-cotta ; the pilasters are plastered ; the pilasters are plastered over with Portland cement, the cement and terra-cotta thus forming a very pleasing and effective ornamentation on the exterior of the building which has been left plain brick colour without any plastering, except on the pilasters and the bases of the piers which are plastered with Portland cement. The dome which is the main feature in this facade is dodecagon in shape, is elegantly proportioned, and, being surmounted by a lantern of suitable size, and flanked in front by two neatly designed and well executed towers the tops of which are 102 feet 3 inches above the ground, gives a dignified and graceful appearance to the whole building. The skyline in this facade is most pleasingly broken by the pavilions on the north and south ends, and by the dome and the roof over the stair cases on the north and south of the Durbar Hall. The north front of the building which is next in importance to the east facade is varied in design at different parts which gives it a rich and picturesque effect. * * *

The central portion of the Durbar Hall is square at the level of the floor with a massive masonry pier at each corner ; these piers support 4 large semicircular arches, each 24 feet 3 inches span, one on each side of the Hall and coved out into pendentives at the angles which give the room a circular form at the crown of the arches. These arches carry the heavy dodecagon basement on which the dome of the building rests. In each wall of the basement is placed a large glazed door to ventilate and light the upper part of the hall. The exterior of the basement is rendered most effective by the grouping together of triple Corinthian pilasters on pedestals, a rich cornice and a particularly neat balustrading crowning the whole. The interior of the basement is also tastefully ornamented by the grouping together of Corinthian pilasters in pairs and arched shaped panelling with archivolt mouldings and key stones over each door way. Immediately above the semicircular arches and round the interior of the central portion of the hall is a heavy ornamental cornice supported on most gracefully shaped large cement consoles ; the top of the cornice serves in an admirable manner as

a balcony round the interior of the dome basement and is protected by the elegant balustrading formed of light double flinted balusters. This part of the building including the exterior and interior of the dome basement has been exceedingly well conceived and works in most harmoniously with the rest of the building. A very great acquisition in the building are the spacious corridor or verandahs that extend round the whole of each block both on the ground and first floors ; these not only add immensely to the comfort and convenience of the interior, but give to the exterior a most symmetrical and pleasing contour and the arrangement by which so much architectural beauty has been attained in the elevation."

A broad road lined on both sides with ornamental lamp posts leads from the Puranabash road and stops before the porch in front of the Durbar Hall. Here it loses itself into a spacious pacca gronnd stretching up to the foot of the building and going round the palace. From this issue broad foot paths of brick concrete laid on brick flat, and go in nice curves in various directions all over the grounds.

Swimming Bath, Covered Tennis and Racket courts.

On the north of the main building and a little removed from it are the swimming Bath, the covered Tennis and the Racket court erected side by side on the west of a foot path that goes towards the north. The spacious lawntennis court lies by the side of an ornamental lake and covers the entire front of these buildings. On the west is the old flower garden enclosed within a high wall with a tank behind. The inner surface of the southern section of the wall is decorated with the figures of Hindu gods curved in relief.

Old flower garden.

Stables and out houses.

To the south of the garden are the stables with a coach house within the court yard, and with quarters for stable servants on the first floor in the corner rooms. The building is fronted in the east and provided with a clock tower over the gate way. The servants' quarters lie to the east of the stables, beyond a broad carriage path, at some distance from the palace.

Rajmata's Palace.

Beyond a block which contains the Duar office, and the quarters of the Jaigirdar servants, towards the north of the Palace, is the residence of the Dowager Maharani Rajmata Deo Aye Devati. It is a nice little two storied house built after the Classical style of Architecture, and is situated within grounds tastefully laid out and ornamented with flowers, palms, and tanks. This has been built on the old side of the Puranabash or old residence of the Maharajas after which the road in front is named.

Khagrabari.

In the suburban Taluk of Khagrabari there is a small Bunder on the loop of the Mara Torsa arranged on both sides of the Emigration road. There are some Sanskrit Tols in the Taluk which is



Photo Block. Survey of India Office, Calcutta 1903.

INTERIOR OF THE PALACE DINING ROOM.- *Page 60.*



Photo-Block. Survey of India Offices, Calcutta, 1903.

THE PALACE WITH PART OF THE GROUNDS *Page 61.*

largely inhabited by Brahmins, and Pundits versed in Sanskrit literature, the most notable of whom is Mahamahadhyapaka Pundit Sidhanath Vidyabagish the present Dwar Pundit.

Nilkuthi. Nilkuthi is the name of a plain lying on a curve of the Bura Torsa which flows by the east of the town and forms part of the suburbs. It contains chiefly the European population of the town, and has a race course and polo-ground. Here lies the circuit Bungalow of old where the Commissioner of the Division used to lodge when he came on inspection duty, during His Highness's minority. It contains the residence of the Superintendent of the State, a nice, large two storied building, situated in the middle of a triangular shaped ground beautifully laid out, and bounded by the Maharani road, the Gordan road, and the Bauti Road. On the east, by the side of the Bauti road, is a group of handsome Bungalows intended for the residence of some high English officials. On the north of the Superintendent's house is the English Church. Towords the east by the side of the Bura Torsa lies the Burial ground, secluded under the shade of some shisoo trees, and enclosed within a breast-high brick wall. It contains the graves of those Europeans who died in the State, or at any place near it, where there is no decent place for burial. At some distance to the south by the side of the Rangpur Road is the Philkhana where the State elephants are kept.

SECTION III.

Muffassil Towns.

Muffassil towns. Of the chief muffassil towns Haldibari, Mekhligunj and Mathabhanga stand on the side of the Emigration Road west of Cooch Behar; Dinhata lies on the Rangpur Road 16 miles south of Cooch Behar, and Fulbari, 15 miles east by the side of the Lawkuthi Road. These towns are yet growing, and, although none of them is quite 30 years old, have already become very important places of business. Like the town of Cooch Behar they are all connected with the neighbouring places of importance in the surrounding British districts. A short account of each is given below.

Bunder at Haldibari. *Haldibari.*—It is a place of much commercial importance and is known for its jute traffic. The Northern Section of the Eastern Bengal State Railway passes through it, and has a station named Haldibari, after the name of the Taluk Bara Haldibari in which

it is situated. Besides the Bunder it contains a Police station, a State Cutchery, a Charitable Dispensary, a Middle English School, a Post office and a good Dakbungalow. It is 43 miles west of Cooch Bebar.

The town is built on two sides of the Emigration Road which is intersected by the Rail road at right angles from north to south. The Bunder lies mostly on the east side of the Railway line. The extensive market place extends from north to south through the Emigration Road, and is lined on the east, south and west by large firms of European and native merchants. The Tahasil Cutchery stands in the middle by the side of the Emigration Road. The bazar lies in the west with shops erected along the Kasiabari, Emigration and Manikgunj Roads. The school stands in the east of the town on the north of the Emigration Road, while the Police station, the Dispensary, the Post Office and the Dakbungalow occupy the south-west corner of the town.

The town is small and is rapidly growing. The population is about 2,400. The town has got a municipality of its own.

Sub-divisional town of Mekhligunj.

Mekhligunj.—It is the Headquarters of the Sub-division of the same name, and stands on the left bank of the Tista in Taluk Mekhligunj. Its situation is 26° 21′¼27″ north latitude, and 88° 56′ 42″ east longitude.

The town is small, with an area of half a square mile, and a population of 1,319 souls. It is made up of the Civil station and the Bunder lying in juxtaposition of each other, with the Emigration Road lying between them. From the south the Dinhata Road, generally following the embankment of the old Kanteswar's Road, passes by the west and goes up to Jalpesh towards the north-west, intersecting the Emigration Road on the south-west of the court house. From this junction a road goes north to Changrabandha and thence to the northern frontier; and another goes west to the west end of the town. In the east of the town a cross road goes south from the Emigration Road, and passing through the bazar meets the Dinhata Road after half a mile. There are several other cross roads serving to divide the town into convenient and well arranged blocks for building purposes. The roads are straight and neat and clean, and are all *kucha*.

With the exception of the court house and the Thakurbari, the buildings are either of corrugated iron roofing, or thatched, and are provided with mat walls.

Besides the Sub-divisional Cutchery, the Lock-up, the Police station, the Charitable Dispensary and the Post Office, the Civil station contains a High English School, a Girl's School and a

Night School, the offices of the Deputy Inspector of Schools, and the Canoongoe, the Inspection Bunglow and Office of the Public Works Department, and a Rest-house ; a State Thakurbari, and a Mahommedan Mosque forming the places of worship.

The Bunder occupies the southern portion of the town. There are several big shops of Marwari and Bengali merchants arranged around the Hat-ground and by the side of the Emigration Road. The importance of the Bunder consits in its tobacco traffic. A large number of Burmese merchants annually come here to buy tobacco-leaves which are brought to the market in carts, and purchased through native brokers. The commodity is then sent down the Tista in boats to Kaligunj in the District of Rangpur where the leaves are sorted, spread out, and packed before being sent down to Chittagang for transhipment for Rangoon and other Burmese ports.

Besides the Hat which is held twice a week, there is a daily Bazar or market which assembles in the afternoon, and furnishes the town with fresh fruits, vegetables, fish, milk, and other eatables.

Sub-divisional town of Mathabhanga.

Mathabhanga.—By far the most important of the Sub-divisional towns is Mathabhanga. It is situated in a Taluk of the same name, in Pargana Mathabhanga, on the right bank of the Jaldhaka, here called the Manshai, and extends westward to the Shutunga, which flows in a curve by the west and south of the Civil station. It is a little above half a square mile in area, and has a population of above 2,000 souls.

As in the case of Haldibari and Mekhligunj, the Emigration Road only a few years ago passed through this town also. The Shitalkhuchi Road which comes from the south cuts it a short way east of the Shutunga, and, being continued northward through the Bazar, forms the Falakata Road. Since the change in the course of the Manshai below Tawrikata in 1892 the section of the Emigration Road between that place and the town, has been abandoned, and a diversion has been made by the north which crosses the river a mile higher up below Taluk Khaterbari, and, touching the Bunder in the north, goes by the west of the town to the crossing of the Shutunga in its old place. The old section of the Emigration Road and the portion of the Falakata Road south of the new diversion now form part of the town roads. Through the Bunder two roads run down east to the Manshai, and have cross communications with the old Emigration Road. In the southern portion of the town a cross road joins the old Emigration Road

with the Shitalkhuchi Road. Some new roads have lately been opened, of which the one along the Shutunga, and another in the north of the Bunder, are the chief.

This town is not so well arranged as Mekhligunj. The Civil station formerly lay on the banks of the Manshai. Owing to an encroachment of the river, it had to be removed to the present site in 1880. The Bunder, which then stood apart, has got partially mixed up with it; but this does not give to the place an unsightly look.

The Court-house building, the quarters of the Sub-divisional officer, and the Sub-Naib Ahilkar, the High English School, the Dakbungalow, and the Inspection Bungalow of the Public Works Department occupy the block in the extreme south-west. In the north beyond the old Emigration Road are the Police Station, the Lock-up, the Hospital and Charitable Dispensary, arranged along the road and facing the south. The Post and Telegraph office stands towards the east of the Hospital on the other side of the old Falakata Road. The Thakurbari lies further east beyond a few private houses.

The Bunder takes up the northern, and by far the largest portion of the town, on the north of the old Emigration Road. It contains several big firms of Marwari and Bengali merchants, the predominating element being the Shàhà Mohajans of Eastern Bengal. These merchants trade with the ports on the Brahmaputra, and also with Manikgunj and Narayangunj. The traffic in tobacco is very brisk here.

It contains one of the biggest Hâts of the State which is held in the spacious market place twice a week. It assembles early in the morning and lasts till night fall.

There is a daily *bazar* which is held in the after-noon on a plot of land on the south of the Thakurbari.

This town too has a municipality, and enjoys Local Self Government within certain limits.

Sub-divisional town of Dinhata.

Dinhata.—Dinhata, the Head-quarters of the subdivision of the same name, lies by the side of the Rangpur Road, 16 miles south of Cooch Behar. The State Railway passes by the east and has a station at the place named Chawra Hât after the local Bunder. The Dharla, the southern channel of the Torsa, flows by the west and is about a mile distant. It is above a mile from north to south with a short breadth from east to west, and has an area of about half a square mile and a population of about 2,000 souls.

The town is built on both sides of the Rangpur Road. Two roads lead through it to the Dharla, one by the north of the Court-house compound, and the other by the south of the Sub-divisional Officer's quarters. There are besides some unimportant roads serving as means of communication within the station.

The Public Institutions are the offices of the Sub-divisional Naib Ahilkar and the Sub-Naib Ahilkar, the Lock-up, a Police Station, a Hospital and Charitable Dispensary, a Government Post Office, the office of the Public Works Department, a Rest house, a High English School, a Girls' School, a Thakurbari or Hindu temple, and a Madommedan mosque.

The Thakurbari with a tank attached to it stands in the north-east corner. The Post office and the Girls' School lie to its south, opposite the Court-house. To the south of the Naib Ahilkar's house are the Hospital and the High School by the side of the Rangpur Road, while the Lock-up and the Police Station lie on the east on the other side of the road. The Bazar commences from the south of the Police Station and extends along the Rangpur Road for about 500 yards, and has the market in the middle, where a *bazar* is held in the evening every day.

The Bunder lies apart in the south of the Civil station and is called Chawra Hat. The Shahebgunj Road, and the Gosanimari Road start from the Rangpur Road in its north, the one going eastward, and the other westward. A short way south from this junction is the large Hât ground taking up a considerable space on both sides of the Rangpur Road. The shops of the Marwari and other merchants are arranged around it. In the south there is a large tank not in good condition. By the south of the tank a road leads eastward to the Railway Station, leaving the jute firm of Messrs. Apcar & Co., on the right, and sending out a branch to the left which meets the Hat ground at its south-east corner.

Sub-divisional town of Tufangunj.

Fulbari.—The little town of the Fulbari, as the Head-quarters of the Tufangunj sub-division are called, is situated on the right bank of the new or Dipa-Raidak within the fork made by the Lawkuthi Road with the Chikliguri track. The Head-quarters of the sub-division were removed to this place in May 1896, and the new town built on the south-east of the Ranir Hat Bunder, in Taluk Kamat Fulbari. The town is still under construction and is not even half a square mile in area at present. The population is small. In addition to the Lawkuthi Road and the Chikliguri track which roughly form its southern and western boundaries, about two miles of new *kucha* roads have been opened in the new town. The Bunder and the Civil Station lie close to each other. The private houses are *kucha* with thatched roofs and mat walls;

the public buildings and the shops of the Mahajans have corrugated iron roofing. The public institutions in the town are the Sub-divisional Courts and Offices, the Police Station, a Post Office, a Rest-house, a Charitable Dispensary and Hospital, a Middle English School, and a State Thakurbari.

SECTION IV.

Bunders.

Bunders or rural towns.

The Bunders are the seats of trade and commerce where merchants permanently reside and have firms for the conduct of business. There is a large number of them, great and small, scattered all over the State. They are situated on big rivers, or by the side of public roads, and command a large amount of traffic, both inward and outward.

How they grow up.

The nucleus of a Bunder is a Hat. As the latter grows in importance it begins to draw larger traffic, and if the site be favourable with good means of communication by land or by water an experimental shop is opened by the side of the Hat by some enterprising man. If the venture succeeds, more shops come into existence, and, following the example of the pioneers, are raised near the Hat-ground. As vicinity to the Hat affords additional facility to the sale of commodities, the shop-keepers evince a dogged dis-inclination to quit the site of the Hat. With the spread of business, the space around the Hat is gradually filled up. If the demand for sites of shops be great, as in fact it is in all big Bunders, the sides of the different entrances are also occupied, sometimes to a considerable way.

The place soon grows into a little rural town. Blacksmiths, carpenters, confectioners, sellers of fancy goods, and various other classes of hunters of a public place, flock around the locality and transform it into a busy place of trade. This is very much the way that the Muffassil Bunders of Cooch Behar have sprung up.

Almost all the Bunders have got pucca wells sunk at the expense of the State for the supply of good drinking water. The big ones have got Schools and Post offices attached to them. A few have got telegraphic communication also. The most important ones have also Charitable Dispensaries maintained by the State. Police Stations and Out-posts are located in several of these.

The number of important Bunders in the State is twenty-five. Haldibari, as already noticed is the largest and by far the most important of these. The Bunders at Mekhligunj, Mathabhanga, Fulbari, and Dinhata, the last of which is called Chowra Hat, have also been described. Of the rest the most important are Dewan Hat and Kholta in Cooch Behar ; Goshanimari and Shitai in Dinhata ; Balarampur, Ghoramara, Natabari, Lawkuthi and Mahishkhuchi in Tufangunj ; Moranga in Mathabhanga ; and Changrabanda in Mekhligunj. The topography of all these is almost alike. Shops of corrugated iron roofing arranged around the Hat-ground, a masonry well in a convenient place generally near a border of the Hat, and Mudi shops lining the approaches, form the chief superficial features of each. A short account of each is given below. Important Bunders of the State.

Dewan Hat.—It stands on both sides of the Rangpur Road 8 miles south of Cooch Behar. The State Railway passes by the south and has a station near it named after the Bunder. It is connected with the marts in the east and south-east of the country by means of good cart roads. There are some big firms of Marwaris, and one of an Armenian merchant at the place. It has a Middle Vernacular School. It has telegraphic communication through the railway.

Kholta.—It stands on the right bank of the Kaljani on the northern fronteir, opposite the Government Sub-divisional town of Alipur, by the side of the Buxa Road which may be aptly called the extension of the road from Shitai northwards through Cooch Behar. A road from Jalpaiguri coming through Falakata meets the Baxa Road in the immediate south of the Bunder. The State Railway now passes by it west. In addition to the shops around the Hat-ground on the west, a number of good shops have sprung up on both sides of the Buxa Road going north to the Kaljani ferry by the east of the Hat-ground. There are a Vernacular School and an Inspection Bungalow of the Public Works Department. The ferry on the Kaljani below the Bunder belongs jointly to the State and the British Government. The place is only 12 miles north-east of Cooch Behar.

Gosanimari.—It is 14 miles south of Cooch Behar and is connected with it by a road which goes south-west to Shitai near which it meets the Rangpur-Kakina Road. Dinhata is 8 miles on the east, and the road coming from it goes by the south of the Bunder as far as Jalpaiguri *via* Mekhligunj, Jalpesh and Mainaguri. The Singimari flows by the west and south within a mile each way. Besides the Bunder there is the historic temple of Gosanimari at the place, as well as a Middle Vernacular School and a Post office, and an Inspection Bungalow. The place is of historic importance,

having been the seat of Governmet of the line of kings that preceeded the present dynasty. The Rajpat or the citadel of king Kanteswar, now in ruins, lies in the north, while the great Rampart of the same king stretches along the north and south from the far west on the other side of the Singimari. The vicinity is full of ruins and decaying monuments of past greatness.

Shitai.—This Bunder lies on the southern frontiers in Taluk Nagar Shitai. The Maldah flows by the south crossed just below it by a masonry bridge constructed by one Kheru Mahammad Chowdhuri of Taluk Khamar Shitai. A road leads from it northward to Cooch Behar which is 21 miles distant; another goes to Barthar to the east, and thence to Moghul Hat. The place is connected with the Kakina Road on the south which leads to Rangpur. The Bunder contains some big shops of native merchants as well as of Marwaris. There was a Police Outpost here, which has lately been abolished. It has a Middle Vernacular School. The surrounding tracts produce excellent tobacco and sugarcane. Cultivation is also far advanced.

Balarampur.—It stands about a mile west of the Kaljani, a short-way south of the Dhubri Road, in the midst of a rich tract which grows excellent jute. It is 12 miles south-east of Cooch Behar, 7 miles east of Dewan Hat, and 13 miles north-east of Dinhata, the communication with these places being by good high roads. The Bunder contains the shops of several Marwari and Bengali merchants. It has got a Post Office, a Middle English School and an Inspection Bungalow. The residence of the family of Nazir Deo, the heriditary Commander-in-Chief of Cooch Behar of old and once a rival claimant to the sovereignty of the State, stands in the west. The place is famous for its good mustard oil. There is a *basti* of Mahommedan oilmen in the vicinity.

Ghoramara.—This is the name of a rising Bunder situated on the left bank of the Kaljani in Taluk Chilakhana by the side of the Lawkuthi Road, 10 miles east of Cooch Behar, 5 miles west of Fulbari, and 7 miles north-west of Balarampur with which it is connected by means of a fair weather track, coming up by the south of the Bunder. From it a road goes northward to Natabari, and thence to the frontiers, and is joined with the Bhatibari Road in the Western Duars. Shops are arranged along the south of the Lawkuthi Road and by the east and west of the Hat-ground which stretches from north to south from the north side of the above named road. The importance of the place consists in its traffic in jute, mustard seed and mustard oil.

Natabari.—This Buuder lies on the west side of the Chikliguri track, which joins Ghoramara with the Bhatibari track in the



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INTERIOR OF THE PALACE—LIBRARY. *Page 68.*

Western Duars. It is seven miles north of the latter. It may be called a mart subordinate to Ghoramara, the principal merchants of which have a branch concern here. In fact the commodities exported from the Ghoramara Bunder are largely purchased at Natabari, and sent down to the head-firms in the former, for being exported. Only recently this Bunder has been connected with Baneswar *via* Gadadhar by means of a track. It has yet to be seen how far this connention succeeds in dirverting the traffic of Natabari to the Railway, and affects the export trade of Ghoramara.

Lawkuthi.—The Lawkuthi Bunder, which is otherwise called Buxigunj, is situated 7 miles north-east of Fulbari by the side of the Lawkuthi Road on the left bank of the deserted bed of the Mara Sankos. It lies half a mile west of the Gadadhar. A road leads from the Bunder to the Ghat. There are some big shops of Marwari merchants arranged on four sides of the quadrangle formed by the Hat-ground, the Mahishkhuchi Road going north by its east. There are some shops of mudis, wheel-wrights and blacksmith also.

Mahishkhuchi.—It is the last Bunder by the side of the Mahishkhuchi Road and is called Shahebgunj. It is 3 miles north of Lawkuthi, and 25 miles north-east of Cooch Behar, and 10 miles of Fulbari. There is a road which leads north from this place, and, passing Guard Hat near the frontiers, meets in the Western Duars the great trunk Road which comes from Jalpaiguri and goes to Assam. The Bunder stands on a deserted loop of the Raidak, and is about a mile and a half west of the Gadadhar. The Mahishkhuchi Road passes through the middle. The Police Out-post and the Post Office lie on the east, and the shops in the west. The Out Post was abolished a short time ago. The country around is thinly populated, and the Bunder is not in a flourishing state although it shows fresh signs of growth every year.

Moranga.—This is another frontier Bunder lying on the left bank of the river Kumlai, 18 miles north-west of Mathabhanga from which there is a village-path leading to it *via* Ksheti. It is 12 miles north of Patgram, and is connected with the place by a road joining the Emigration Road from the left bank of the Dharla with the Jalpaiguri-Falakata Road two miles north of the Bunder. There was a Police Out-post here which stood on the banks of the Kumlai facing the river. This has been lately abolished. The Bunder containing the shops of Marwari and Bengali merchants lies in the west. A *basti* of *goalas* or milkmen stands in the west of the Bunder.

Changrabandha.—This Bunder lies at the junction of two roads, one of which joins Patgram with Jalpaiguri, and the other Mekhligunj with Ranir Hat, near the northern frontiers. It is five miles north of Mekhligunj, and has a Middle Vernacular School and Post Office, and an Inspection Bungalow of the Government Road Cess Department. The Bunder contains, in addition to the houses of merchants and Mudis, a *basti* of *domes* who make excellent articles of bamboo work, and another of *goalas* or milkmen.

The southern extension of the Bengal-Duars railway joining Lalmanir Hat with Jalpaiguri, now under construction, passes by this Bunder, and has a station in the Bunder, which is named after it.

SECTION V.

Hats or Market places.

A *hat* described.

Hat.—A Hat is a public place of business lying within a rural area, where people of the neighbourhood assemble on fixed days of the week for the purpose of buying and selling things of every-day-use and mostly of local production. It is the place where the producer himself sells his things to the purchaser, who is generally also the consumer, immediately without the intervention of the broker or the middle man. Thus while the seller here gets the highest possible value for his article, the buyer obtains it at the lowest possible cost.

Site.

The site fixed for a Hat is generally shady, and lies by the side of a public road or way. The ground is high and remains out of water during the rains. Some reservoir of water, either natural, or artificial, is always close at hand. Human habitation is not also far off. The Hat ground is divided into parallel rows of beds, raised about 6 inches above the ground and 4 or 5 feet wide, running across the ground, with hollow lanes between them. The raised ground is occupied by the stalls, while the low bed below serves as a passage for the buyers, and drains the ground of rain water.

Little huts with open sides, not more than 4 or 5 feet in length, are usually erected on the raised ground, one for each of the principal stall-keepers, to serve as a protection from the sun or rain. Different portions of the ground are allotted to the sale of different sorts of articles.

Things are brought to the Hat in carts or *bhars*. A *bhar* is a flat piece of bamboo placed across the shoulder with a load suspended from either end by means of a rope, so that the carrier has one load in front and another behind. The women carry loads on their heads, while the men use the *bhar*, these two modes of carrying not being interchangeable between the sexes. Of the articles offered for sale, rice, paddy, vegetables, *dal*, fish, oil, salt, spices, sweets, *dahi* or card and *chura* are the chief of the eatables, the last named two being the most favourite articles of food with the people. Milk is also brought for sale but not always; in a pure state it is not much in demand among the rural population, and is chiefly used for feeding the infants. Poultry and sheep, as also cows and bullocks are offered for sale in the important Hâts. Cloth and wearing apparels and cheap fancy articles, which go by the name of *manohari* things, may be had almost in every Hat. Earthen pots, without which no householder can manage, are brought for sale in large quantities. Jute and tobacco, the chief articles of valuable export of the country, may be had both for wholesale and retail purchase. Gunny, rude silk and some kinds of cotton fabrics of native manufacture, are offered for sale in the big Hats, mostly in Mekhligunj. Rude articles of carpentry and household cutlery, bamboo baskets, stools and the like, and various kinds of fishing apparatus of the same material are often met with. In fact very little of a Cooch Behar householder's necessities is rare in the big Hats. Articles offered for sale.

Although the Hats are attended by people of all ages and of both sexes, women form by far the majority of the sellers and stall-keepers. The average daily attendance varies from 100 to 3,000 according to the importance of the Hat; an assembly of four to five thousands is also no uncommon sight in our large Hats during the jute or tobacco season. Attendance.

A Hat ordinarily assembles at about 2 o'clock in the afternoon and disperses at night-fall. In some of the big Hats the hour of assembling is earlier. Near the north and north-eastern frontiers, where the country is yet to a great extent uncleared and is infested with wild beasts, the people come to the Hat in the morning and go away shortly after noon. Time of holding.

A Hat is held twice a week, the interval between two successive Hat days being 2 and 3 days, respectively. The Hat held after 3 days is naturally more numerously attended than the one after the shorter interval. So during the week there is, as the people call it, a large, as also a small, Hat.

The average distance between the two nearest Hats is about 4 miles; in fact the existence of two Hats within 2 miles of each Distribution of *hats*.

other is prohibited under the laws of the State. The different Hats in a neighbourhood are so dated that there may be no competition between any two, on account of their being held on one and the same day.

The total number of Hats in the State is 119 scattered over 1,204 Taluks with a total area of 1,307 square miles. There is thus one *hat* for almost every 10 Taluks, or 11 square miles of country. The density of the Hats is the greatest in Mathabhanga, where there is one Hat in every 9 square miles, and the smallest in Tufangunj, where there is one in every 14 miles. Pargana Cooch Behar attains the average for the whole State, while Dinhata is above it, having one Hat in every 10 square miles, and Mekhligunj below it, with one in every 13 miles. Ordinarily the people living within 5 or 6 miles of a Hat attend it. In the case of big Hats the distance is often twice as much if not still more large. With a population of 578,868 souls for the entire State, and 117,815 occupied houses each of which represents a distinct householder, each Hat on an average provides about 1,000 households containing about 5,000 souls.

Proprietory right.

The proprietory right to the Hats vests directly in the State. It is leased out by auction to the highest bidder for a term of 5 years. The farmer, who is responsible to the State for the due management of the Hat, collects tolls from the shop-keepers according to an authorised schedule of rates which are uniform throughout the State. He has to keep a Register of the sale of cattle, and note down in it the name and residence of the buyer and the seller, and of the witnesses who identify the seller, and particulars calculated to help the identification of the cattle sold, as also the amount of value paid. Copy of this has to be submitted every month to the Magistrate having jurisdiction over the Hat. No cattle can be sold without giving the buyer a receipt in the prescribed form, and every such receipt has to be countersigned by the farmer. This is meant as a check to the sale of stolen cattle, and works satisfactorily.

Sale of cattle.

No Hat can be established within the State without the sanction of the Dewan.

Important *hats*.

Of the Hats of the State the largest is the one at Dewangunj in Mekhligunj; next comes Chowra Hat in Dinhata; the sub-divisional Hat at Mathabhanga and the Changrabandha Hat in Mekhligunj are nearly equal, and may take the third place. The Dodeya Hat, which is 3 miles north of the town of Cooch Behar, is known for the large stock of food grains which is offered for sale in it.

CHAPTER IV.

COMMUNICATION.

Important roads.

Cooch Behar is a net work of rivers and streams many of which form good means of inland communication. The country has also been largely opened up by means of roads, tracks and village-paths, which are always kept in an efficient state of repairs. There is a line of Railway from the Southern frontiers to the town of Cooch Behar, which connects the State with the British territories, and is fast becoming very useful. Another line from Cooch Behar to Jaintia in the Western Duars has been lately completed and opened. There are at the present moment about 400 miles of roads with high embankments. All places of note in the neighbouring British territories are connected with the Capital. The sub-divisional towns and muffassil stations are also joined with Cooch Behar by means of embanked roads. There is one great trunk road running east to west near the town of Cooch Behar which is crossed by another going from north to south. Ramifications then issue out of them and go in various directions to places of importance, either within the State or without in the British territories. There are then the cross-roads, connecting these branches, and completing a system of communication which, though not yet perfect, is by no means insufficient.

Bridges.

The small water-courses intersecting the roads have substantial bridges of wood or brick work. There are 902 running feet of bamboo, 9,106 feet of wooden, 450 feet of iron, and 834 feet of masonry bridges. There is thus about 20 feet of bridge for every mile of embankment. The length of water-way supplied to these bridges is not thus small, and shows how costly this branch of Public Works has proved to the State.

Ferries.

The big rivers and streams falling in the alignment of the roads and village-paths such as have not been bridged are crossed by ferries. These ferries are all held directly by the State, and are leased out for three years at a time by auction, by which the annual rent is fixed. The farmer, who collects tolls according to an authorised schedule of rates, is responsible to the State for the proper management of the ferries. Every important ferry is supplied with from two to four *mars* and an extra boat. A *mar* is a floating bamboo platform fixed on two boats placed alongside of each other, and can ordinarily carry two loaded carts and four bullocks of burden. Four equistrians can cross on it in a mounted

posture. It is managed by four men stationed at the bows and sterns of the supporting boats. It can be sailed, rowed, or towed, as the case may be.

Tracks and village-paths.

The number of tracks and village-paths is 24 with a total length of 187 miles. There are embankments where they pass on low lands which come under water during the rains. The most important of these are provided with bridges and differ from the high roads only in being high less broad and straight. In all other respects they are good roads, and pass a large amount of wheeled and foot traffic.

Condition of roads.

The breadth of the roads and paths varies from 10 to 30 feet. The longer roads as a rule are 20 to 25 feet wide, although some of them have a greater breadth. The width of the cross-roads and feeder roads varies from 10 to 15 feet. The roads are straight, spacious and generally *kutcha*. There are only ten miles of metalled road, all in the town of Cooch Behar. As the soil is sandy and loose, the Kutcha roads become very heavy during the rains after a good shower of rain, but readily absorbe the moisture when there is fair weather for a couple of days. They are not thus half so bad as one would expect them to be from the fact of their not being metalled.

Road side avenues and places of refreshment.

All the big roads have avenues of Sisoo and fruit trees, and are sufficiently shady and agreeable during the hot season. Young trees are in the course of being reared by the side of the new roads. The public have a free use of the fruits that grow by the road side. There are *moodi* shops by their side at convenient distances, where the weary traveller may always have a *lota* or pot of good well-water and some coarse refreshment after the native style, consisting of *chura* and *dahi*, at all hours of day and night. There are then the Rest Houses, Inspection Bungalows and Dak-Bungalows in the towns and important Bunders. These are properly furnished, and are open to respectable travellers. There is boarding accommodation only in the Dak-Bungalows, and refreshment in the European style may be had at a short notice.

Chief roads.

The most important of the roads are the following :—

(1). The Emigration Road West, joining the town of Cooch Behar with the sub-divisional town of Mathabhanga and then going to Patgram on the Dharla. Here the road bifurcates ; one branch crosses the Tista below Mekhligunj, and passess west up to Haldibari, and thence proceeds westward into Purneah to join the trunk road which connects Dinajpur with Titalia *en route* to Darjilling ; while the other goes north-west to Jalpaiguri *via* Changrabanda. There are camping grounds by the side of this

road at Changrabanda, Patgram, Bala Hat, Akra Hat and Khattimari.

(2). The Emigration Road East, connecting Cooch Behar with Dhubri in the District of Goalpara, passing by the north of Balarampur, and crossing the Sankos below Kherbari in Ghurla.

(3). The Buxa Road, connecting Cooch Behar with the military station at Buxa in the Western Duars *via* Alipur the Headquarters of the Buxa sub-division.

(4). The Lawkuthi Road, passing through the north-west of the country and connecting the town of Cooch Behar with Fulbari and the Buxigunj and Mahishkhuchi Bunders, and then going up to Haldibari on the Sankos in the Western Duars.

(5). The Rangpur Road, issuing out of the Emigration Road east from a point three miles east of Cooch Behar, and going down through Dinhata to Moghal Hat from which there is a road to Rangpur.

(6). The Goshanimari and Shitai Road, joining the town of Cooch Behar with Goshanimari and Shitai, and thence completing the connection with Rangpur *via* Kankina. Besides these there are a large number of cross roads for communication between different places within the country.

State of communication at the end of eighteenth century.

Towards the end of the eighteenth century when Cooch Behar came to be in political relations with the British Government there were about 300 miles of roads in the country. The great junctions were at Cooch Behar, Mawamari, Raichanga, Jelimo, Balahat, Lalbazar, Changrabandha, Shahebgunj and Dewangunj. In those days there was a military road from Calcutta to Dinajpur, *via* Moorshidabad and Bhagabangola on the Ganges. From Dinajpur went common roads to all neighbouring places of importance, and one of these came east to Rangpur. There were two direct routes from Rangpur to Cooch Behar; one *via* Moghal Hat, Gitaldah, Dinhata and Mawamari, and the other *via* Gazghata (Rangpur), Lalbazar, Goshanimari, Paharganj and Bagribari. Another road used to join Rangpur with Cooch Behar *via* Kurigram and then through Bhitarbund, passing by the marts of Bhothat, Shahebgunj, Patherdubi, Sewraguri and Mawamari. Cooch Behar was also connected with Rangamati in Goalpara *via* Balarampur and Mawamari. From Cooch Behar one road passed northward to Buxa, *via* Bhabanigunj and Chichakata in the Western Duars; another proceeded westward to Patgram, *via* Mainaguri, Bhothat, Jelimo, Kursamari and Balahat, whence it branched out, one line going to Jalpesh and Dillamcota in the Duars *via* Changrabanda, and the other to Shahebgunj, which was at that time a large mart with a Tehsil Kutchery, and was connected with

all places of note in Purneah, Dinajpur, Rangpur and the Western Duars. Dewangunj and Lalbazar were also important places and similarly connected. Raichanga was a small mart near the Northern fronteirs, and was connected with Lalbazar, Patgram, Dhopguri and Kantalbari.

After fifty years.

During the fifty years that followed, the connection between this Raj and the British Government became closer, and military force had afterwards to be quartered within the State to prevent the aggressions of the Bhutias. The military road to Dinajpur thus came to be extended as far as the town of Cooch Behar *via* Rangpur. Some of the old roads fell into disuse, and a few new ones were constructed, the principal of which was a road from Cooch Behar to Mainaguri in Rangpur *via* Pundibari, Sukandighi, Ghoksadanga, Bawlpari, Dakalikoba, Ksheti, Moranga and Sarohati. Another cross road was openned from Ghoksadanga to Sarohati, Kesaribari and Joresimuli. During this period of frontier disturbance the places named above had grown in importance, and all traffic to Mainaguri, which was then an important place, passed through them.

After the Bhutan war.

When after the Bhutan War the northern portion of Rangpur was incorporated with the newly conquered District of the Western Duars, and the whole constituted into the new District of Jalpaiguri with its head-quarters at the Jalpaiguri town, the importance of Mainaguri, which had hitherto been the Heard-quarters of the sudder sub-division of the District of Western Duars, dwindled, and Cooch Behar came to be directly connected with the former, *via* Patgram, by the Emigration Road constructed between 1865 and 1874. The Giladanga and Ksheti Road still continued to draw much traffic. When, however, the sub-divisions with the Head-quarters at Mathabhanga and Mekhligunj, respectively, were opened in 1872 these places rose in importance, and the northern Hats and Bunders lost their days. Thus in course of time the Ksheti and Giladanga Road came to be abandoned, the Emigration Road commanding all thorough traffic. Dhopguri in the Western Duars lost much of its importance with the opening of the Falakata sub-division in 1869, and the old road from Lalbazar to Dhopguri *via* Raichanga came into disuse, and a direct track *via* Mathabhanga was opened.

With the opening of the sub-divisions.

When the Ijardari system of the collection of State revenue was abolished in 1872, and Khash Tehsil was introduced, the muffassil Kutcharies were abolished, and with this the importance of those places was diminished. In this way Lalbazar, Dewangunj, and Shahebgunj ceased to be important centres of business,

and gradually communication with those places was mostly abandoned. The final stroke to their prosperity was given by the opening of the sub-divisional towns at Mathabhanga and Mekhligunj, and they dis-appeared altogether. All traffic was now directed towards the new places of business; new lines of roads sprang up and the old ones were abandoned. Mathabhanga came to be joined directly with the Mekhligunj Road at Shitalkhuchi, and Mekligunj with Patgram. The Northern Bengal State Railway with a station at Haldibari was opened in 1876, and the greater portion of the traffic was directed towards Haldibari, and its connection with Cooch Behar was completed.

With the conquest of the Bhutan Duars by the English, communication began to be opened in the Western Duars. The north-eastern portion of the State, which had hitherto been in the dark, now attracted attention, and began to be opened up by means of roads and tracks. Thus the Lawkuthi Road was constructed, and the Bhatibari and Chikliguri tracks were opened.

Old roads.

In this way many of the old roads have been abandoned. The new roads have been made by professional agency, and have taken the shortest possible route. In many places the alignment of the old roads has been followed so for as practicable. The old roads are now generally in a neglected condition, and have gone out of repairs and have ceased to be maintained by the State. The land covered by them, however, still continues to be *khash*. The embankments remain out of water during the rains, when they are used by the people for grazing their cattle.

Railway.

A short line of 24 miles of narrow gauge railway was opened in 1894 to join Moghal Hat with the town of Cooch Behar and thus bring the latter in immediate communication with the Districts of Lower Bengal. It formerly stopped on the right bank of the Torsa below the town. There was then a proposal of bridging the river and bringing the line within the town, and thence continuing it up to Alipur on the Kaljani, following the alignment of the Buxa Road so far as possible. This has since been ocomplished, and the Railway has been extended up to the foot of the Bhutan Hills near the Jaintia.

Feeder roads.

With the opening of the railway several feeder roads have been constructed in different parts of the State terminating in one or other of the railway stations of Chawra Hat, Dewan Hat, Cooch Behar, and Baneswar. The longest of these is the road from Torsa to Katamari and thence continued to Shibpur across the Singimari, whence it goes as far as the Shitalkhuchi Road.

Maintenance of communication.

Almost all the roads and paths have been constructed, and are maintained at the expense of the State. The people have to pay

no cess or tax in addition to the amount of land revenue for the maintenance or opening of communication. Only a small tax similar to the Road Cess of Bengal has been lately levied on the holders of permanently settled estates and rent-free holdings. A special fund has been created with this, supplemented by a big allotment from the land revenue, under the name of the Communication Improvement Fund, which is devoted solely to the construction and maintenance of communications in the State.

CHAPTER V.

NATURAL CALAMITIES.

Blight, Flood, and Earthquake.

Locusts in 1863.

Cooch Behar cannot be said to be exceptionally liable to blight, flood, or drought, although each of these calamities does sometimes occur. About the middle of November 1863, a flight of locusts passed over the State, doing a great deal of mischief to tobacco and mustard seed crops; but as they left the rice untouched the injury inflicted was not deeply felt. They came from the west and travelled eastwards. No remedial measures have yet been found necessary to be adopted against this or any other description of blight.

Floods rather frequent.

Although the instances of blight are rare, the same cannot be said of floods. The country is intersected by numerous rivers and streams; and when there are heavy rains in the Bhutan Hills, these overflow and cause inundations. The floods are not due to excessive local rain-fall.

Floods in 1787 1822 and 1842.

The State suffered from heavy floods in 1787, 1822 and 1842, when crops were seriously damaged, many cattle lost, and a few deaths by drowning also occured.

In 1870.

In 1870, there was also a slight flood.

In 1878.

The heaviest flood rememberd by the oldes tmen in the country occurred in July 1878, the like of which had not been seen for 40 years. The people were driven to the house tops when the inundations were at their highest, and in places near the town it was necessary to send out boats with loads of *Chura* or dried rice for distribution among the sufferers to save them from starvation. The whole country from Cooch Behar to Dhubri became one vast sheet of water. It is interesting to quote the following lines from Mr. Dalton's Report to show the extent of the inundation :—

"There was some talk of the possibility of Sir Ashley Eden going from Rangpur to Dhubri, I believe just at that time; and

Mr Campbell the Deputy Commissioner of Dhubri, thinking the Lieutenant-Governor might wish to return *via* Cooch Behar, came over here from Dhubri in a steam launch, to test the practicability of coming by water, and I returned with him to Dhubri the same day, passing in the launch over miles of cultivated land, and actually crossing from one river to another. The flood subsided quickly from the high lands, leaving the low lands submerged for many days."

Serious damage was caused to the standing crops.

In 1886. Again in August 1886, the whole country was inundated by a heavy flood, and in many places the waters rose higher than in 1878. The damage done to the crops was not, however, great. There was only some loss of cattle. In 1892. In July 1892 there was a heavy flood ; but it was only local, having been felt chiefly in the Mathabhanga and Sudder Sub-divisions. The latest heavy flood took place in July 1895, when the whole country was inundated, Pargana Tufangunj having suffered most of all from its ravages. And in 1895.

No embankments. There are no embankments in the State. In fact it would be impossible to embank the large rivers, both on account of the great expense, and their liability to change their course. The floods though they bring destruction in their train, are not wholly without their advantages. While damaging the standing crops for one year, they generally leave a rich loam on the soil and thus permanently add to its fertility. Sometimes, however, they leave a sandy deposit on the lands, and make them almost unfit for cultivation for some years to come.

Drought of 1854. A very heavy drought, caused by the absence of local rainfall, occurred in 1854, which seriously affected the prosperity of the people. It resulted in the general failure of the rice crops, and a partial famine. The Maharaja was at that time a minor, in the Court of Wards Institution at Calcutta ; but the Chief Minister of the State procured large quantities of grain from Sirajgunj and other places, and sold it at cost price to the people. For about three months boats were continually coming in with rice, which was distributed over the country.

No demand for irrigation works. Some crops suffer now and then for want of timely rainfall but the loss is on the whole compensated by other good harvests during the year. There is no demand for canals or other works of irrigation in the State, as droughts are of exceedingly rare occurrence.

Hurricane of 1887. A violent hail storm passed over a part of the country in March 1887. "The tremendous storm" to quote from the Dewan's Annual Report for 1886-87, "that raged in the town of Cooch Behar at about 9 P. M. on the 29th March, will not be forgotten for a long time to come ; it was the severest in the memory of

living men. Many huts were levelled down and trees uprooted; even some strongly built houses with corrugated iron roof or grass thatching were seriously damaged. The storm came from the north-west; it lasted only for 10 minutes and extended over a limited tract of country not more than 25 miles long and 8 broad; it raged most violently in the town. It was accompanied with rain and hail-stones; we all apprehended that many deaths would occur; 4 deaths only were, however, reported."

Earthquake,—earliest notice by Dr. Buchannon in 1308-1309.

Dr. Buchannon makes the following observations on Earthquakes in 1808-9 in his accounts of Rangpur which are concerned with the State of Cooch Behar also:—

"Earthquakes are very frequent. Some years indeed there are none, but in others, as this year (1808-9), there have been three or even more. They have always been slight, so as to do no manner of injury."

The next notice of Earthquake in Cooch Behar is found in the Dewan's Annual Report for 1885-86 and it runs as fallows:—

Shocks in 1885.

"The last was also a year which would be long remembered all over Bengal for the repeated shocks of earthquake, which kept people in a State of alarm in many places. The most violent shocks were felt here on the 14th July 1885. No serious damage was done to the State buildings."

The memorable earthquake of 1897.

A terrible Earthquake, the like of which was never heard of before in India, occurred on the 12th June 1897, at about 5 P. M. The shock lasted over 3 minutes. The main wave was from north-east to south-west with oscillating and rotatory movements. There was not much loss of human life, the victims having been eight in number only, and that being confined to the town of Cooch Behar. Happily it was the day of Maharam Festival and the people were out. Otherwise the number of deaths would have been much larger. But loss to property was enormous. All the pucca buildings were more or less severely injured, roads were badly fissured, bridges damaged, and drains and wells choked and filled up. The damages done to the palace and the public buildings in the town amounted to about ten lacs of rupees, and that to private buildings, about seventy five thousand.

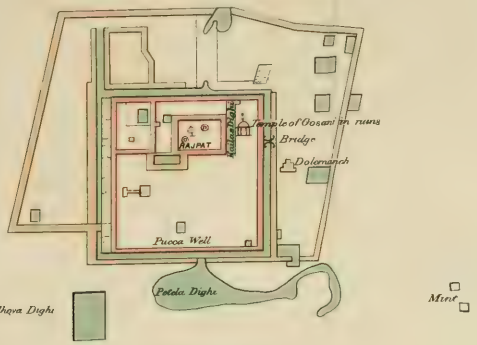
The tremor did not cease all at once. Successive shocks were felt throughout the night and even afterwards, all through the year at intervals. Some of these were very pronounced.

Springs of hot water with sands issued from many of the fissures; and at places ashes and cinders were thrown out.

The beds of marshes and beels were upheaved, and many fisheries became dry.

Plan of
THE RAJPAT
AND SURROUNDING RUINS
(1900).

Scale 4 Inches = 1 Mile.



Plan of
THE FORTIFICATIONS OF
KANTESWAR
BEFORE THE OPENING OF THE SINGIMARI
(1900).

Scale 1 Inch = 2 Miles.



Plan of
THE FORTIFICATIONS OF
KANTESWAR
IN GOSANIMARI AND OTHER TALUKS
(1900).

Scale 1 Inch = 1 Mile.



Reg. No. 299, Dewan, Cooch Behar State.—Jan. 03.—300.

Litho., S. C. Sarkar.

CHAPTER VI.

Remains of Antiquities.

No relics of antiquities are to be found in the country belonging to periods prior to the advent of the Khens. This dynasty of kings, who flourished more than four hundred years ago, supplied three rulers to the old kingdom of Kamrup of which Cooch Behar is but a small fraction. They had their capital at Kamatapur, which is represented by modern Gosanimari, lying on the banks of the Singimari, fourteen miles south of the town of Cooch Behar and only eight miles west of the railway station at Chawra Hat. Extensive remains of fortifications erected by these kings are to be found scattered over a large tract of country lying between the southern part of Cooch Behar on the north, and the district of Bogra on the south. These are mostly ascribed to Raja Nilambar, the third and last king of the line, whose fort at Ghoraghat was subsequently converted into a stronghold of the Mahomedans, after the overthrow of that king by Hossien Shah, Mahomedan King of Bengal, in 1498. None of these, however, with the exception of the ruins of the capital of the Khens, now lie within Cooch Behar territory.

Antiquities not much above 100 years old.

The remains of the city of Kamatapur are gigantic works of human art and bespeak great power and wealth in the prince or princes who concieved such an idea of a capital. The city was of a triangular shape, long from east to west, with a perimeter of about 20 miles. The two sides of this triangle met in the west, and were defended by a high rampart, protected by an inner ditch and an outer moat, and covering a length of about 15 miles, while the old Dharla formed the base about 5 miles long, and protected the east from foreign invasion. There were two redoubts, one towards the north-east, and the other towards the north-west. The rampart was pierced by four gates of huge proportions, in the north, south and west. The northern gate was called the *Hoko-duar*. The sides of the rampart here at the gate-way were faced with bricks in mortar, which are still in good condition. The gate on the south was called *Sil-duar*, or stone-gate, and it cut the rampart in an S curve. This was evidently the chief entrance to the city, and the large debris of bricks on both sides of it make it probable that there were watch towers or sentry houses on both sides of the gate. It is said that the rampart at this gateway was lined with stones, and that the gate had a door-way of stone. Several large slabs of granite are still lying in it, and a few are yet standing. From this gate issued a high embanked road, which leading through

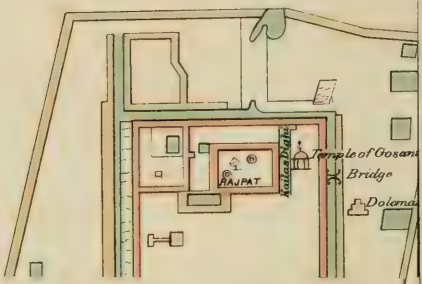
Kamatapur, of Khen Kings.

Hoko-duar.

Sil-duar.

Plan of
THE RAJPAT
AND SURROUNDING RUINS
(1900).

Scale 4 Inches = 1 Mile.



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Kamatapur, of Khen Kings.

Hoko-duar.

Sil-duar.

Rangpur went as far as Ghoraghat, which at the time marked the southern boundary of old Kamrup, and where, as already mentioned, Raja Nilambar had a large fort.

Bagh-duar. There were two gates on the west, the southernmost of which cut the *gar* or rampart about two miles south of the western angle, and was called the *Bagh-duar*, it is said, from the figure of a *bagh* or tiger that was placed on the gate-way. The simple rustics of the neighbourhood still offer *pujas* here to the *bagh* which has in course of time been deified. The road leading from the citadel to the temple of Jalpeswar, now lying in the Western Duars, passed through this gate. This road was a spacious highway, and there were good tanks at regular intervals all along the line from the city to Jalpesh. The present Dinhata-Mekhligunj Road follows the alignment of this old Jalpesh Road. The temple of Siva at Jalpesh, which is said to have been originally built by Raja Jalpeswar, was rebuilt by Raja Kanteswar, or the Lord of Kamatapur, being the usual title of the Khen Kings, and was subsequently renewed by Maharajas Prananarayan and Modanarayan, the sixth and the seventh King of the present ruling family.

Jai-duar. The second gate on the west lay in the northern rampart, about a mile east of the western angle. It was called *Jai-duar*, or Victory-gate.

Raj-pat. Within this rampart lies the *Raj-pat* or citadel. It occupies a central position and is enclosed by double rows of walls with a counterscrap between them. The inner wall was of brick, and the outer of earth, and a ditch surrounded the whole. Here the king lived. The area within the walls was divided into blocks or courts by means of smaller walls, and different courts were allotted to different quarters, such as the Zenana, Thakurbari, Out offices &c.

Mint. The *Taksal* which was both the Mint and the Treasury lay on the south-east of the citadel. The pleasure *jhil* called *Kodaldhoya-dighi*, lay on the south, out-side the walls. The Uzir's Court, or Minister's residence, was situated towards the north-east about a mile distant

Shitalabas. from the citadel. The king's summer residence called *Shitalabash*, was to the north, out-side the rampart of the city, where a large bathing tub of stone, called *shil-khuri*, is still to be seen. The temple of Gosanimari, the patron goddess of the Khens, formerly lay on the eastern bank of the *Kailash*, a tank which lies along the eastern side of the Rajpat, from which a flight of stairs formerly

Bhonath tank. led into it. Near the Bagh-duar lies the Bhonath-dighi, on which there was a temple of Shib, and which was subsequently converted into a military camp by the Mahomedan invadors of Kamatapur.

Bhulkabhulki. Near this tank are the ruins of a building called *Bhulka-Bhulki*,

where the ladies of the palace used to play at bo-peep, after bathing in the tank.

The public offices were situated out-side the city at a place called *Barabangla* which is about two miles south of the southern rampart. Barabangla.

The following detailed description of these extensive ruins is quoted from Dr. Buchanan, who visited this part of the country in the beginning of the nineteenth century :— Dr. Buchanan's account of the ruins in 1809.

"Kamatapur was situated on the west bank of the Dharla, which formed the defence on one side. The river has now shifted its course further east, but the old channel, which now occupies the east side of the old city, shows that formerly it was of great magnitude. The town was intersected by a small river, the Singimari, which has destroyed a considerable portion of the works, both where it enters and leaves the city, but was probably kept within bounds, when the city was inhabited.

"The city is of an oblong form ; and, so far as I could judge by riding round it on the inside of the inner ditch, is in that line about 19 miles in circumference, of which perhaps five were defended by the Dharla. The remainder was fortified by an immense bank of earth, and by a double ditch. The earth from the inner ditch seems to have formed the rampart, and that from the outer ditch was thrown towards the country, so as to form a kind of glacis, but without a covered way. By this means the rampart and outer ditch were made of the greatest possible dimensions, with perhaps the smallest labours ; nor in such a kind of fortification would the inner ditch be useless. In its present state the inner ditch is of very various width, and never seems to have been regular ; but the encroachments of agriculture no doubt have occasioned an appearance of more irregularity than existed, when the works were perfect.

"The rampart at present is in general about 130 feet in width at the base, and from 20 to 30ft. in perpendicular height, but it probably lost much of its elevation and the base has widened by the earth washed down on a counterscarp, of which, however, there is now no trace. The rampart has no doubt been chiefly of earth, and there is no trace of its having even been faced with brick ; but from the number of bricks, everywhere scattered about it, there probably has been a brick parapet, on the summit of the earthen rampart. The outer ditch has been about 250 feet wide ; no estimate, from its present state, can be formed of what its depth has been ; but from the greatness of the slope towards the country, formed of the earth thrown out, the depth must have been very considerable.

"These works run in straight sides of very unequal lengths, and have no towers, bastions, nor flanking angles. Three gates are shewn, and I thought that on the west bank of the Singimari I could trace remains of a fort, near where the camp of the besiegers was formed. At that place, there were no ditches, but in their stead several additional works both within and without the rampart, just as at the gates. It is true, that the rampart is complete; but the passage through it may have been filled, when the place was invested. The supposition of there having been a gate at this place, which is 3 miles from the east end of the works, is confirmed by an old road, which has led from a ruin called the treasury to this part of the rampart, and from thence south to Ghoraghat, as I have lately mentioned; and on this road there would seem to have been many public works. Bricks and stones, both scattered and in heaps, and some other indications of buildings, extended along this road, for about 3 miles, to a tank called Sagardighi. These buildings by the natives are attributed to the Moghals but in this they are probably mistaken. In one heap of bricks are two rude pillars of granite standing erect, and in another there are four; and although during a long siege the Moslem officers may have built small houses of brick, it can hardly be supposed that a besieging army would carry pillars of granite from such a distance as would be requisite. It is very likely indeed, that in making their approaches the besiegers occupied these buildings.

"About 2 miles west from what I suppose to have been a gate, and from the Singimari river is an evident gate, which has been strengthened by many works, both without and within the rampart, in order to supply the deficiency of ditches; for draw bridges form no part of Hindu military architecture. Both the gate and these additional works have been constructed of bricks and the gate has been supported by stone pillars, on which account, it is called Siladwar. The stones are quite rude and contain no curving.

"Rather more than 2 miles from thence is another similar gate, *bagh-duar*, which is said to have derived its name from its having had over its entrance the image of a tiger. On the north side of the works there is only one gate, about a mile from where they terminated at the Dharla. This gate is also constructed of brick, and is called Hoko-duar, probably after some barbarian; for many of the people of Kamrup have names, which cannot be referred to any of the languages that are considered by the Hindus as belonging to their polished race; and among these name Hoko is very usual.

"Immediately contiguous to this gate, placed between a road leading north from it, the city wall, and the Singimari, is the fortress, in which the Patra or Chief Minister resided, and its extent has been somewhat less than a mile square. The fortifications are very inferior in strength to those of the city, by which it has been entirely commanded. Beyond the residence of the Minister, at a little distance further north, I was led to visit what is called the king's bath, which I found in a field, cultivated with tobacco, at a place called Sitolvas, a name that implies coolness. There is no trace of buildings, so that the bath may be supposed to have been placed in a shady grove. It consists of a large mass of grey granite hollowed out in the form of a rude goblet. The sides are 6 inches thick at the brim; the total diameter at the brim is $6\frac{1}{3}$ feet, and the cavity is $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep. A small projection on the inside seems to have served as a step, to facilitate the descent into this rude bath, which, as there is no step on the outside, was probably sunk in the ground to the level of the surface. It is totally destitute of the least elegance of form or beauty of workmanship, but must have cost a great sum in the carriage. These are all objects of curiosity that I observed in viewing the outer parts of the city.

"Within, the chief object is the Pat, citadel, or royal residence which is situated near the centre of the city. It is of a quadrangular form, and is surrounded by a ditch about 60 ft. wide, about 1860 feet from east to west, and 1880 from north to south. Within the ditch has been a brick wall, without has been a rampart of earth. On the north and south faces the wall has been immediately contiguous to the ditch; but on the east and west sides there has been a wide counterscarp. Without the rampart at the south-west corner are several small tanks, and a long marsh, once probably a river, has extended along the remainder of the southern front. On the other three sides this inner citadel has been surrounded by an enclosure about 300 yards in width; this also was defended by an earthen rampart, and was divided into three different spaces of very unequal magnitude, which probably served to accommodate the various departments of the Raja's domestics. In the outer enclosures there are some small tanks, but no trace of buildings; the domestics indeed were probably lodged in huts.

"Within the brick wall of the inner enclosure the most striking object is a large mound towards its northern face. It is about 360 feet square at the top, and 30 feet high. The faces have evidently been lined with brick, and have had a considerable slope. At the south-west corner some part of this facing is pretty entire, having been defended from injury by a small tank, which is very deep. The interior of the mound consists of earth, which

seems to have been taken from a number of small tanks, that are near, and one of which seems to have been intended as a defence for the south-east angle of the place, as it is surrounded by a wall. In the mound I dug to some depth in order to know the nature of its structure, for many bricks are scattered on its surface. I found only earth and sand; and I observed, that the same was the case in a large semicircular opening, that had been made on the northern face, probably by some person who was in the idle search of hidden treasure. Towards the north and south faces, there are two wells about 10 feet in diameter and lined with brick, which of course went through the whole depth of the mound, and perhaps 20 feet lower, until they reached the springs; but even then they would not be of a depth, that would be very inconvenient.

"I could only observe two places on the mound, that had any appearance of having been buildings; but many bricks have been removed in order to construct an Indigo factory. Towards the east side is a small square heap, and it is said to have been the temple of Kamateswari which I think is exceedingly probable. The other ruin situated towards the west side has been paved with stones, and is supposed to have been the Raja's house; but this I suspect is not well founded. Such an approximation to the God of the empire would not have been decent, the place is exceedingly small and totally unfit for the residence of a prince, and seems to me more suitable for the situation and size of a building in which Moncho the image of the God would have been on days of great solemnity placed.

"It is said, that the bricks taken to build the Indigo factory were of a very large size, and as smooth as the best made in Europe. Those that I saw were rude such as are commonly made in India. The space south from the mound has been divided into two rather unequal divisions by a brick wall running south from the mound. In the eastern of these divisions are several heaps of bricks, which seem to me to have been the foundations of wooden, or perhaps thatched halls, in which the Raja transacted business, or gave audience. In this division, immediately east from the mound is a tank of the same length with the mound, and of more than half its width. It is said, that the Rajas amused themselves by keeping some tame crocodiles in this tank, which sent off a branch to surround a small mound at its north-east corner. This mound contains many bricks, and has probably been another temple. On the east side of this tank is another small mound of bricks, which is said to have been the armoury, and must have been a pretty large building.

"The western division of the area below the great mound is the smallest, and probably contained the Raja's more private apart-

ments; in the southern part, where he entertained his friends and in the northern where he kept his women. In that quarter is a considerable space bounded by the great mound on the east, by an earthen rampart on the west, and by brick walls on the south and north. A large irregular heap in the middle of this was probably the private chapel for the ladies, and there are two tanks, that have probably been lined with stone. The accommodations were probably of wood or bamboos, as were those also in the southern quarter of this division. The Raja's own private chapel was probably in what is now a shapeless heap contiguous to the tank, that bounds the south face of the great mound at its western angle.

"Near the west end of the northern face of the brick rampart, near what I suppose to have been the women's apartment, there has been a large building of brick, that has fallen outwards, and filled the ditch. This was probably the station of the guard, to the vigilance of which the Rajas entrusted their own personal safety, and the honour of their bed. Immediately north from the great mound, near the ditch, there are some irregular heaps which have probably been formed by people who were digging for the bricks of some building of note.

"Stones are to be found in several places of these ruins, especially in the tanks that are situated in what I have supposed to have been the apartments of the women, and in what I have supposed to have been a temple, in which the image of Kamateswari was exposed at festivals. Most of these stones, that remain, are entirely rude, and uncut, and the marks of wedges by which they have been split are very evident. This circumstance, however, I attribute to the Moslems, who seem to have been breaking down the materials in order to form new works; for we can scarcely suppose, that any people, who had the desire of bringing stones so far as an ornament for their buildings, should have been ignorant of the art of at least cutting them square. I, however, observed only two stones, that retained marks of the chisel. One was apparently part of an entablature of red granite, much but very rudely carved. It was lying below the north-east corner of the great mound, from which it had probably fallen. The other was a fragment of a column of grey granite, about 8 feet long, and eighteen inches in diameter. It is very rudely carved, the shaft is an octagon, the pedestal or capital is square. The people say that it was one of the dumb-bells used by Nilambar; and so apt to be caught by the marvellous are the people of this country, that a Moslem Luskar (lascar) attached to my tents, who had lived much in Fort William, and had been in the habit of seeing large

pieces of ordnance moved, declared, that the works here could only have been performed by God. Most of the natives of this vicinity attribute the building of the citadel to Viswakarmma, the God of artists; and I am credibly informed, that at Calcutta a similar origin is now not uncommonly attributed to Fort William. As for the great outer rampart of the city, it is universally agreed that on the approach of the infidels it was built by Kamateswari and the reason assigned for its not being completed on the side towards the Dharla, is that the Raja was ordered to fast four days on the occasion. He fasted three days; but, being unable to endure hunger any longer, he ate on the fourth day, and of course only three sides of the work were completed.

"A great road led through the city somewhat in an east and west direction, but not in a straight line. Its east end passed to the Dharla, its west end to Vaghdwar, and it passed a few hundred yards south from the residence of the king. The whole way between these two last mentioned places, but at considerable intervals, may be traced the foundations of square enclosures or fortifications, which in all probability, and according to tradition, were the abodes of the chief persons in the State. In most places in this direction, which seems to have been the fashionable part of the town, there are many scattered bricks, but there is nothing to indicate that there ever was any large building of that material.

"About a mile from the royal residence in this direction, is the present channel of the Singimari, which is constantly changing its course, and may have carried away many ruins, as all the southern parts of the town are miserably torn by its old courses. It is navigable in the rainy season, and in the dry has a fine clear stream of water. Beyond the Singimari is another small channel, over which had been a bridge of two small brick arches. These were of a rude Gothic from, and have partly fallen. A little way from Vaghdwar is a small area paved with stone and called Gauripat, where the female part of the indecent image of Shib remains, but the male has been removed. Around there are many bricks and foundations, and probably this has been a temple, which was violated by the zeal of the Moslems, especially as these appear to me to have been erecting considerable works in the vicinity.

"The chief of these works is a tank lined with brick. It is about 300 feet from east to west, and 200 from north to south, and is surrounded by a terrace enclosed by a brick wall. On each side there is a descent, both to the terrace and from thence to the water, by very fine steps of cut granite, among which are two clear indications that the stones have been taken from ruins. One is, that in one place a column has been used for a step, and another

is, that a stone containing carved figures has been built into the stair, and from a total neglect of symmetry with the adjacent parts, could not originally have been intended for the place, which it now occupies. Besides, near the tank there is a stone, which contains an image in *alto relievo* of a Nagini, an object of worship, which in its upper parts resembles a woman, and in its lower a serpent, and which was probably brought as a material. Although I suppose that this tank is the work of Moslems, and found my opinion on the greatest length of the tank being from east to west, which, the Pandit of the survey assures me, is totally contrary to Hindu custom; yet it must be confessed, that the natives of Vihar attribute the work to a certain Bhonath Karji, an officer of one of the Vihar Rajas. They allege that the Hindu law is little known in Kamrup, and that a tank at Vihar, undoubtedly constructed by a Hindu within the memory of man, has its greatest length from east to west. I am still, however, inclined to think, that the tank is of Mahomedan workmanship; for on its south side, near the west corner, are the traces of a building in the Moorish style, and near it is another dwelling house built of brick, which is said to have been for some time the residence of a certain Lalbayi, who was a favourite concubine of the conquering Moslem chief, and who was probably left here, when he undertook the rash expedition to Assam. The building is small, and evidently of Moorish architecture. As its numerous arches gave its fickle inhabitant an opportunity of peeping at the passengers, now from one window, then from another, the natives of Kamrup, not accustomed to such proceedings, called the building Bhorka-Bhorki,[11] a word similar to our Bo-peep. To this same lady is attributed the foundation of Lalbazar, the town nearest to the ruins.

"Whoever built the tank attributed by me to the Moslems, there can be little doubt, but that the materials came from the royal residence, and that much greater buildings were intended, for the road about half a mile from the tank is for a considerable way strewed with large stones very much carved, which, I have no doubt, formed part of the ornaments of Kamatapat. The same European, who told me of the fine bricks, informed me that on these stones were some characters, which no one could read, and the Pandit, who had been sent to the place, said that one stone contained a kind of character which had no sort of affinity either to Sanskrit or Persian. I therefore hastened to the spot in full expectation of making a grand discovery, when to my utter confusion the characters proved to be a running ornament of a kind of chain work that was rudely carved on a block of red granite. In

[11] The native expression is *Bhulka-Bhulki*, which means *bo-peep*.

other respects also this stone was much carved, and evidently intended for the lintel of a door. Near it were three other large stones, two of which seem to have been the sides of the door, and the third a threshold. Many other of the stones have been carved in *alto relievo*, and have been surrounded by a high margin, to prevent the figures from being injured. These stones are exactly in the style of that containing the Nagini at the tank, and have evidently been ornaments of a Hindu building. The most perfect has been placed upright against a tree, is called Vaisnav-Vaisnavi, and Nakkata-Nakkati.[12] The former name is given to it, because it is supposed to represent a religious mendicant and his wife, and it has obtained the latter appellation, because it is supposed to have passed under the merciless sword of Kalapahar of whom I gave an account in my report concerning Dinajpur. I should rather suppose that the figures represented a Hindu chief admiring a female dancer, and that the mutilations were performed by the soldiers of Sultan Hoseyn.

"Concerning these stones there are two traditions. The first states that Raja Nilambar was collecting materials for a grand building, when the Moslem army came before his capital. The other is that the stones formed part of his place, and were taken away by the Mohamedans for some of their works, when these invaders were compelled to evacuate the country. This last appears to me to be most probable. It is not, however, to the Moslems alone that the dilapidation of the royal abode can be attributed; the Rajas of Vihar have performed a part, and have carried away many stones. In the counterscrap of the east face of the citadel the present Raja discovered a very large pillar, with which he attempted to adorn his capital. He succeeded in placing it upon a wheeled-carriage, and it had reached within a short distance of the place, which it was intended to ornament, when the carriage gave way, and in the fall the column was broken. It is said to have been 22 cubits in length, but only $2\frac{1}{2}$ cubits in circumference.

"Besides the great road leading east and west, others led from the Palace to each gate; but near these I observed no traces of buildings. In all probability the great space within the ramparts was chiefly occupied by scattered huts and gardens, and probably in many parts there were cultivated fields. The only other building that I observed, was a large square enclosure near the principal road, about three quarters of a mile east from the place where it is said the treasury, or rather the office of the receiver-general, was situated.

[12] *Vaishnava-Vaishnavi*, and *Nakkata-nakkati*, are in fact the figures of two different couples, engraved in relief on two slabs of stone.

" It might have naturally been supposed, that the zealous followers of the Koran would have destroyed the idol of Kamateswari ; but by her worshippers they are not accused of such an action. On the fall of the city the fortunate amulet of Bhagadatta retired to a pond, near where the Singimari enters the city, and there remained, until a favourable time for re-appearing occurred.[13] This happened in the government of Pran Narayan, the fourth Raja of Vihar, when Bhuna, a fisherman, threw his nets into the pond, and could not draw them out. He was informed by a dream of the cause, and directed to instruct the Raja of the manner in which the deity expected to be received. A Brahman was sent upon an elephant, having with him a silken purse. Having found the amulet under water, it was there placed in the purse, and having been thus concealed was placed on the elephant, for it is quite unlawful for any person to behold the emblem of the goddess. The elephant went of his own accord to a place on the banks of the Singimari, near where that river leaves the old city, and there halted at Gosanimari, where Pran Narayan built a temple for its reception, as appears from an inscription in the year of Sakaditya (A. D. 1665). The Raja naturally enough appointed priests to the temple from among the colony of Brahmans that had been introduced by his ancester Viswa ; but he was soon informed by a dreamer that this was not agreeable to the goddess, and that her priests must be selected from among the Maithilis, by whom she had been formerly served. It is probable, that the Raja found the Maithilis more accommodating, as ever since that manifestation of divine favour they have been the Purohits of the family, and superintend all its ceremonies ; while the Baidiks of Kamrup have only been able to retain the office of Guru, or religious instructor, which in Kamrup is not so profitable The Baidiks of Kamrup, have lately suffered a great misfortune. The present Raja's father dismissed them from the office of Guru, and chose a Rarhi Brahman for his spiritual guide. Indeed the Kamrupis never seem to have been well established, as some of the Rajas have chosen to return to the ancient guidance of the Kolitas. The first of the Maithili priests informed the Raja, that every night he blindfolded himself, went into the temple and shut the doors, and played on a drum (Tublah), to the sound of which the goddess danced naked in the form of a beautiful girl, as she informed him, for he had never presumed to look. The Raja's curiosity was raised to the highest pitch, and the compliant priest allowed him to look through the door. The goddess was exceedingly angry, that she should have been seen in such a situation,

[13] Prananarayan was the *sixth*, and not the *fourth*, king of Cooch Behar, reckoning from Chandan as the *first*.

discontinued her dancing, and informed the priest that if any of the Narayan family presumed afterwards to come within sight of the temple, he would certainly die. The Rajas therefore abstain from visiting this temple, although they have erected considerable buildings, and have bestowed on the priests a proper endowment. The buildings are of brick, with a few stones evidently taken from the ruins of Kamatapat, and are surrounded by a brick wall, with an octagonal tower at each corner. The area is planted with elegant flowering trees, which, intermixed with the white domes and buildings, look very well when viewed from a distance; but on a near approach every thing is found rude, and destitute of taste; and as usual the structure is debased by a figure in the plaster work, of the most gross indecency. The shrine is covered with a dome, and the architect has therefore, in all probability, been a Mohamedan, no Hindu of the place being then acquainted with the science of brick and lime. The priests are remarkably accommodating. I was led up to the threshold of the shrine without even being desired to take off my shoes, the doors were thrown open, and I was allowed to see the small tawdry image in which the amulet is concealed from view. Had my curiosity equalled that of Raja Pran Narayan, I have no doubt that a few rupees would have procured me permission to enter, and view the sacred emblem naked. There are a few gold and silver utensils placed under the wooden throne, on which the image is placed, but their value could render them an object of plunder to only a common thief. In one of the towers at the angles of the wall, is a stone containg an image of Vasudev, exactly i: the same style of carving as that of the stones lying between the residence of Nilambar and Vaghdwar. It was found in the first year of this century on the great mound, which would seem clearly to ascertain the place from whence the others have been taken.

"I shall finish this account by describing the remains of the camp of the invaders, as it is called by tradition, and I have no doubt that this is a well-founded opinion. It is called Baroghori[14] from its being supposed that it contained 12 houses of brick in which the Moslem chiefs were accommodated. In fact there are many bricks scattered everywhere, and there are several heaps in which bricks are contained; but it is probable that some of these heaps, especially two to the south of the works and on their outside, were buildings belonging to the inhabitants, the materials of which were employed to raise redoubts for the defence of the camp. The attack seems to have been directed against the place where the

[14] The place is locally called *Bara-bangla*, meaning twelve houses, after which the Taluk, in which the ruins are situated, has been named.

Singimari leaves the town, and the invaders, probably despairing of forcing their way over the rampart, waited for some opportunity of entering by the channel, either in very dry weather, or when, after a great flood, it had overthrown some of the defences. The camp is on the bank of the Singimari, about a mile from the town, and is defended towards the place by this river, which takes a semicircular bend. Between this bend and the town is a large mound, which served as a redoubt, and the side of the river next the camp is strengthened by four other such works. The rear of the camp is surrounded by a strong rampart of earth and a wide ditch. This fortification, which is only about three miles in circumference, could merely serve as a depôt to secure a moderate detachment of the army, while the greater part went in search of forage and provisions. The plain between the camp and town is called Sawarigunj, probably from its having been the place where the Moslem cavalry paraded."[15]

The ruins are pretty much in the same condition even now. Some change has, however, taken place in the area within the ramparts owing to cultivation, by which some smaller and minor fortifications have been demolished. The opening of the Singimari through the city after the visit of Dr. Buchannon, in the first quarter of the nineteenth century, has cut away portions of the great rampart, as also the bulk of the ruins of Barabangla.

Kumarir-kote.

About three miles north of Khattimari, lying on the left bank of the Torsa, are the remains of a fortification consisting of ramparts enclosing a rectangular space, about half a mile each way. This place is called *Kumarir-kote*, or the fort of the princess, and is attributed to a princess of the Khen family of Gosanimari, popularly known as Aye Kumari, who is said to have had her residence here. Within the main ramparts there was a smaller rectangular enclosure, and within this was a tank which has now dried up. At the north-east corner of the smaller *gar*, remains of *pucca* wells, and large blocks of stone were found some time ago which can still be seen here.

The fortifications are very old, and the ramparts have disappeared at places. The whole of the west side was washed away by the Torsa in the course of one of its numerous shiftings, and a big old *char* land now stands in its place. The north side of the outer rampart, which is in a better state of preservation than the rest, is still about 10 feet high at places, especially near the north-east corner.

[15] Martin's Eastern India, Vol III, pp 426-38.

Fortifications of Chila Roy in Fulbari, built in the sixteenth century.

Of the remains of antiquities connected with the early rulers of the Koch dynasty, the *gars* or fortifications and temples in the eastern part of the country, called Pargana Tufangunj, deserve mention. These were erected in the sixteenth century by Chila Roy, as Sukladhvaja, the illustrious brother of Maharaja Naranarayan, is popularly known. Chila Roy, before he went to live in Assam, had his residence in Taluk Fulbari, where the Head-quarters of the Tufangunj Sub-division are now located. The place is 15 miles east of Cooch Behar, and lies on the right bank of the Dipa-Raidak. Chila Roy had his house in what is now Taluk Andaran Fulbari, on the banks of the Sukani Nadi, and his *andar* or inner appartment, from which the Taluk was afterwards named, was surrounded by a high rampart. The outer appartment lay east of the enclosed area, and had evidently several structures, either wholly or partly of brick, as the mounds of earth mixed with bricks and brick-bats clearly testify. The late earthquake of 1897 caused several fissures in this place, one of which disclosed the lower portion or plinth of a brick wall. These ruins have not yet been fully explored. About two miles south-east of the *andar* are the ruins of a fortification in Taluk Kamat Fulbari, and a big old tank called Chila Ray's Dighi. The fortifications are oblong in shape and are composed of one smaller enclosure within a larger one. There are remains of small tanks within these walls. The granaries and public offices of the chief were situated here. The Fulbari Bunder has been built within these small *gars*. The adjacent lands contained the remains of several pucca wells which were washed away at the opening of the Raidak. Chila Roy established two Thakurbaris, one in Taluk Nak-kati-gach, three miles south of his own residence, and the other in Barakodali at about the same distance to the east. In either of these places a temple was built and a tank excavated for the worship of Mahadeva. The *Shib* established in Nak-kati-gach is called *Chhota-Mahadeva*, and that in Barakodali, *Bara-Mahadeva*. Both these gods were largely endowed. The temples are now in ruins, and tin sheds have been erected by the State for housing the gods, to whom daily *pujas* are offered at the expense of the State.

Chhota-Mahadeva and Bara-Mahadeva.

Fort in Jaldhoya

An old tank enclosed within a small rectangular rampart, situated in Taluk Jaldhoya on the right bank of the Gadadhar, not far from the site of the old Berbera Bunder, is also attributed to Chila Roy.

Temple of Kamakshya.

The temple of Kamakshya in Assam, though not now situated within the territory under the ruler of Cooch Behar, is one of the most glorious remains of antiquities connected with this country. This temple is said to have been originally built by Narak, the earliest of the mythological kings of Kamrup. After its destruc-

tion by the infamous Kalapahar, the great destroyer of Hindu temples and images, it was re-built by Maharaja Naranarayan in 1487 *Sakabda*, corresponding with 1565 A. D. An account of this is engraved in Sanskrit verse on the stones over the doorway of Bhagavati's shrine. There are the main temple for goddess Kamakshya and two Nat-mandirs, called Pancharatna and Navaratna, the whole being enclosed by a brick-wall. There is also another temple of Kali outside the wall. In the Pancharatna there are images of stone of Naranarayan and Sukladhvaja. These two images are highly respected, and up to this day, the offerings and garlands that had been previously presented to Bhagabati, are laid before them. *Nirmalya* or flowers offered to the Thakurani is regularly sent to the Cooch Behar Rajbari. The *slokas* over the door-way run as follows :—

লোকানুগ্রহকারকঃ করুণয়া পার্থোধনুর্ব্বিদ্যয়া
দানেনাপি দধীচিকর্ণসদৃশো মর্য্যাদয়াম্ভোনিধিঃ।
নানাশাস্ত্রবিচারচারুচরিতঃ কন্দর্পরূপোজ্জ্বলঃ
কামাখ্যাচরণাচ্চ কো বিজয়তে শ্রীমল্লদেবো নৃপঃ॥
তস্যৈব প্রিয় সোদরঃ পৃথুযশা বীরেন্দ্রমৌলিস্থলী
মাণিক্যং ভজমান কল্প বিটপী নীলাচলে মঞ্জুলম্।
প্রাসাদং মুণি-নাগ-বেদ-শশভৃচ্ছাকে শিলারাজিভি
র্দেবীভক্তিমতাংবরো রচিতবান্ শ্রীপূর্ব্বশুক্লধ্বজঃ॥

Temples built by Prananarayan in the seventeenth century.

Maharaja Prananarayan, the sixth king of the present line, was a great builder of temples and maker of religious endowments. He had the temple of *Siva* at Jalpesh, which had fallen in ruins, re-built, and made large endowments in cash and landed property for the regular worship of the god. He brought trained artists from Delhi for this work, and this is how the design of the temple is so beautiful. The temple is square in shape, being 118 feet in length as well as in breadth, and is 105 feet in height, from the Gauripat under the ground level to the top of the dome.

Jalpesh.

Gosanimari.

Maharaja Prananarayan also built a new temple for goddess Gosanimari of Kamatapur, the capital of the Khens, in what is now Taluk Bhitar Kamata on the left bank of the old Singimari, about a mile south-east of the Rajpat, and had it connected with his capital by a high road. He made endowments for the *puja* of the goddess in a princely style. An account of this temple has already appeared. In front of the main temple, over the entrance, appears the following *sloka* written in Bengali characters :—

সম্মত্যাদিযদেক জিত্বরভুজা দণ্ড প্রতাপার্য্যম
ক্রীড়া কন্দুক বেগ বর্দ্ধিত যশঃ শ্রীপ্রাণ ভূমিপতেঃ।
শাকাব্দে নগনাগমার্গশসিত জ্যোতির্ম্মিতে নির্ম্মিতঃ
শ্রীভাজাকবিমণ্ডনেন ভবতা ভবোভবানীমঠঃ॥

Baneswar.

It was Maharaja Prananarayan who built the present temple of *Siva* at Baneswar, evidently on the site of an old temple. A tank was also excavated by that monarch to the south of the temple. The place is only six miles north of Cooch Behar, and there is a station here, named after the place, on the Cooch Behar State Railway.

The *mandir* is square in shape, and is surmounted by a dome which is about 50 feet high from the base. The Gauri-pat, as at Jalpesh, is below the ground level, testifying to the fact that it had been in existence at the place long before the temple was constructed. The *Siva* thus lies within a hollow. The courtyard in front of the temple is paved with bricks, and is raised two feet from the ground.

The temple has been repaired from time to time, and is in good condition. The tank has recently been re-excavated, and masonry stairs built on the west side. A nice little corrugated iron *chandni* was built here in 1899, in commemoration of the thirty-seventh birthday of His Highness.

Sidheswari.

The temple of goddess Sidheswari in Taluk Shidheswari, six miles north-east of Cooch Behar, was also built about the same time by the same king. It is a nice temple, octagonal in shape, and is about the height of the *mandir* at Baneswar. The temple is dedicated to goddess Bhagavati, and the shrine here is a stone *Gauri-pat*, lying in a cavity, like the *Siva* at Baneswar. The court-yard is raised, and paved with brick and mortar.

The place is held very sacred by the people, and is considered to be a *pita-sthan*, only second in point of holiness to *Kamakshya*.

There is a *Kamranga* tree near the temple, enclosed within a wall. It is very old and is considered emblematic of goddess Kamakshya.

The temple is attributed by the people to Maharaja Nara narayan. It does not, however, appear to be older than the temple at Baneswar.

Haripur.

The temple of Mahadeva Harihar in Taluk Haripur, on the north side of the old Jalpesh Road, is as old as the temples at Baneswar and Sidheswari. It is square in shape, and differs from other *mandirs* in the state in having a flat conical dome. The walls are very massive and are about 8 feet thick. It has since the earth-quake of 1897 tilted on one side, and sunk about a third of its entire height. Haripur is seven miles north-west of Cooch Behar.



Photo Bureau.

Courtesy of Smithsonian Institution

THE TEMPLE OF SIVA AT BANESWAR.— *Page 96*

In Taluk Dhaliyabari, not far from the bank of the old Torsa or Manshai, lies the temple of Siva, constructed by Maharaja Upendranarayan who built a palace here. It is therefore more than 180 years old. It is a *pancharatna* temple, having a dome in the middle, and four turrets at the four corners. The height from the base of the temple to the top of the dome is about 45 feet. Dhaliyabari.

Dhaliyabari is only four miles south-east of Cooch Behar.

The monuments of antiquity connected with the propagation of the Vaishnava faith among the people of Cooch Behar are the two *dhâms* of Madhupur and Damodarpur. The former was founded by Sankaranath, and the latter by Damodara, two Vaishnava preachers of Assam who were contemporaries of Chaitanya Deva, and performed the same mission in Assam and Cooch Behar, as the Prophet of Nadia did in Bengal and Orissa. Sankara and Damodara left their native land owing to the persecution of Parikshit, grandson of Sukladhvaja, and found a ready asylum in the enlightened courts of Maharajas Naranarayan and Lakshminarayan. They were received with great honour by these kings who liberally endowed the *dhâms* established by them. Dhams of Madhupur and Damodarpur.

The *dhâm* of Madhupur lies on the side of the old Jalpesh road about four miles north-west of the town of Cooch Behar, at a short distance from Haripur. It lies within a grove of palms, mangoe and jack trees, and contains three *mandirs*, one of which has got roofs of corrugated iron. Several Hindu idols are enshrined here, and there is also an image of Vishnu-pad, where *pindas* are offered by the devotees to their forefathers. The chief object of veneration, however, is the Bhagavata, translated into the Rajvansi dialect by Madhob Roy in the reign of Maharaja Naranarayan. It is placed on a *Sinhâsan*, and a light is kept burning day and night before it. It is devoutly read every evening by the *Bura Bhakat* or Chief priest, followed by *Nâma-gân*, or the singing of the holy name of Hari, to the tune of the *khola* and *karatâla*. The *mandir* in which the Bhagavata is kept is a large *kacha* house erected in the time of Maharaja Narendranarayan under the supervision of the late Ratideva Barua, who was the Superintendent of Works at the time. The doors contain brass images of gods and goddesses. This *dhâm* is a well-known place of pilgrimage for the Sankara-panthi Vaishnavas. The priests of this sect are called *Bhakats*, who observe life-long celibacy, the office descending from the preceptor to the disciple. Madhupur.

Damodarpur stands on the right bank of the Mora Torsa, less than two miles west of Cooch Behar. Maharaja Lakshminarayan here established the *dhâm* for saint Damodar, on a Damodarpur.

mound of earth which had been raised in the reign of his father. This mound still exists. It was enclosed by ramparts or small earthen walls, within which a *mandir* was built for god Hari, and the place soon grew into a small town. Damodarpur has now lost its days, and has an abandoned look. The *shebáits* of this *dhám* are the Medhis of Bykunthapur, whose ancestor was a disciple of Damodar.

Since the diversion of the Torsa in 1890, the river has been flowing by the south-west of the *dhám*, a considerable portion of which has already been cut away. The river may any day engulf what now remains of the last resting place of the renowned Baishnava preacher.

CHAPTER VII.

NATURAL PRODUCTIONS.

SECTION. I.

Fauna.

Fauna of large varieties.

The Fauna of Cooch Behar is large, and almost all the animals found in Lower Bengal can be met with here. The birds are very numerous and are of a large variety. Situated as the country is almost at the foot of the Himalayas, it is naturally expected to be the abode of the wild beasts. And so in fact it was formerly. Large clearances have been going on of late, not only in this country but also in the western Duars which stretch from its northern borders to the Bhutan Hills, and the shelter necessary for the growth of wild animals is fast disappearing. These animals are therefore moving higher up the country. Formerly the ravages from the wild beasts were very great, especially near the northern borders, where many a tiger and rhino have been shot by His Highness and the Deputy Commissioners. Wild game has now become almost scarce, and the Maharaja has to hold his annual shoot in the Duars. It was chiefly owing to this reason that two large tracts in the north of Parganas Cooch Behar and Tufangunj which contained good jungle, had lately to be constituted into Reserve Forests for the preservation of the big games for the shoot of His Highness, who is famous for his love of sport and is a first rate shot.

Wild beasts gradually becoming scarce.

Big games.

Among the big games may be mentioned rhinoceros, tiger, leopard, wild buffalo and black-bear. They used to infest the country around Patlakhawa, Pundibari, Guard Hat and Mahiskhuchi; and, although owing to the spread of cultivation and human habitation in those tracts, the bigger games have now become rare, leopards and black-bears are still to be found in these

parts in large numbers. The black-bear inhabits the ant-hill by digging caves, and is very ferocious when hungry. The leopard which is called by the people *Hakrá*, from the sound it makes, is a very wily and audacious animal, and comes out of its lair in the bush and loiters about hamlets and villages in the night. It some times enters the villager's cowshed, and decamps with such prey as it can seize. The native *shikari* some times makes the cage-trap even in a part of his cattle shed ; but more often it is erected near a jungle, where, decoyed by the bleating of the sheep and mistaking the bamboo structure for a fold, it stealthily creeps in, and as surely becomes a prisoner to be killed in the morning. It also does havoc among the village dogs. The leopards are annually shot or caged in large numbers. The State gives a reward of Rs. 10 for each beast killed, the rate for tigers being Rs. 20 per head.

Smaller games.

Wild pigs are numerous in the jungly tracts, where they are a sort of pest to the cultivator's crops. They live in grass jungle in cavities and strew grass over the mouth of the same to conceal their existence. They attack men if found in their way, in the morning and evening, and are dreaded by the people more than any other wild animal.

The deer is equally harmful to the peasants' crops. Three different species of deer are generally found in the state,—the antelope, *bara-khateya* or spotted dear, and *khateya* or hog-deer. The *krishna sár* or black deer is also sometimes met with ; but it does not seem to be strictly indigenous to the country. The natives kill the deer in this way :—

How natives net deer and pigs.

They have got strong cord-nets with meshes about 6 inches either way, some 8 feet in breadth, and about a thousand in length. When the deer is to be netted the whole village turns out with their nets and spears and long stout bamboo-clubs, and surround the patch of jungle where the animal is suspected to be on three sides, the fourth side being kept open. The ends of the nets are strongly tied to trees or poles firmly driven into the earth, and the nets are spread out and fixed like walls with loose bamboo stays. They then commence beating the jungle, and sometimes set fire to it, at the open side. Thus driven the animal rushes forward and, in its attempt to escape, dashes against the nettings and manages to dislodge the bamboos, so as to bring the net clear upon its head. It now struggles hard, and, in its frantic efforts to break loose the cords, is only the more entangled. The *shikaries* now come up and kill the animal with spears and *lathies*. Wild pigs are also netted in this way. In fact deer and pigs are sometimes caught together from the same bush. It is not, however, very often

that this attempt is successful: sometimes the animal spies the nets from a distance, and with a mighty bound steers clear of the net, and escapes to another bush in safety. The people (Rajvansis) partake of the meat, both of deer and pig, and eat it fried. The skin and antlers are preserved, but there is no traffic in them. They are not sold, and can only be had for a *baksis*.

Monkeys are found in Barakodali in Pargana Tufangunj. They are short-tailed creatures, very wily, and are a pest to vegetables of every description. The animals are, however, considered sacred, and no body would ever think of killing them.

Other wild beasts.

Foxes and jackals are numerous. The former live in holes on *dangas* or high lands among sand. They are great thieves of the farmer's poultry and young sheep.

Hares, both grey and white, are found. They are called by the people *shasha*, which is only a corrupted form of the Sanskrit *shashaka*. They are caught in traps and offered for sale. The flesh of the hare is relished by the people.

Khatash or tiger-cat, and wild cat also kill birds. The *neul* on the other hand does havoc to fruits, especially mature and ripe plantain.

Of the other wild animals the chief are the porcupine, otter, mongoose, mouse, rat, mole, and the comon bat. The otter is not used in fishing, as in the Southern Districts of Lower Bengal.

Reptiles.

Of the reptiles, snakes of different kinds are found in the State. The species of poisonous snakes is, however, rare. The furious cobra, brown and black, though sometimes met with, is not common. Death from snake-bite is not also very common. The number of cases reported to the Police stations during the last decade came up to about 31 on an average every year.

Crocodiles are commonly found in the big rivers, basking in the sun on the sands. They are very shy, and it is hard to approach them. At the faintest noise they take alarm, and, rushing over the sands with great speed, plunge into the water never to rise again in good half an hour. Sometimes they can be seen floating past with the current, when they look more like driftwood than a living thing. The man-eater with a snout on the head, is not to be met with in the Cooch Behar rivers. The species known as *gharial* with long jaws, which subsists upon fish, is very common.

Gosap, lizard, *anjana* and *kaklash* or chameleon are very common. Lizards of two kinds, small and large, are generally met with.

Frogs of three varieties are usually found. The small creatures of a dirty brown complexion are very numerous during the rains.

The *kola beng* or yellow frog, weighing full half a pound and more, frequents the skirts of beels and pools of water, and makes a rumbling, gurgling noise. It goes on creaking at the sight of rain-clouds, and is very noisy on a rainy day. Its instinct tells it when it will rain, and its creaking prognosticates coming shower. Of course this happens only during the rainy season. Two small pouches, dark blue in colour, come out one on each side of its throat at every sound whenever it creaks. The *katkate-beng* with long legs lives under ground, or in a cleft under a weight. It has a flattened shape and spiteful look, and is considered ominous by the people.

Birds.—Of the birds of prey the vultures, kites, *hargila* or stork, and *baj* or hawk, are the chief. Two kinds of vultures are met with,—the *sakuni* or the ordinary vulture, and the *gridhini*, which has two ruddy pouches hanging down from its neck. There are three distinct species of kites,—the ordinary kite, the *shankha-chil* or white-breasted kite, and the *gang-chil* or the fishing kite, which last is smaller in size than the other two species. Birds of prey

The principal of the big game-birds are *deshantari*, *kadma* and wild geese. Although not as big as the vulture, the *deshantari* or foreign bird is a heavy bird with black wings, big tail, pale white body and neck, and long legs. The flesh is tough, but otherwise good eating. The *kadma* is the Indian crane. These are found in low paddy fields during the rains, and also after the harvest has been gathered. They also frequent the marshy lands. The snow-white wild geese are met with in large flocks on the *chars* of the big rivers, especially in the upper section of the Jaldhaka or Mansai. Big game-birds.

Of the smaller game-birds pea-fowl, wild duck, teal, wild fowl, red and black partridges, quail, snipe, golden plover, pigeon, dove, *harital* and *titir* are the chief. Peacocks are found in large numbers in the jungles. Its flesh is tough but is much liked by the Meches and the Garos. They are very shy, and it is difficult to come within range with them. They pass the day in the thickets, and get upon the tree in the night. The best time for shooting them is little before dawn, and again after sun-set. Smaller game-birds

The singing-birds are the cuckoo, *bulbul*, *daiyal* and the *bau-katha-kao* birds. *Tiyas* or parakeets, *salik*, *go-shalik*, *gang-shalik* and *ram-shalik*, which have ordinarily a harsh note, may be classed among the talking birds. When taught they can speak pretty well. Singing birds

The crow, raven, *finga*, owl, night-owl, *dhudum*, *khanjan*, *kalde-pakhi*, *chatak* or skylark, *chakor*, wood-pecker, king-fisher, *babui*,

Khanjan

sparrow, *manua* and *tuni*,[1] with the birds mentioned above almost exhaust the feathery kingdom of Cooch Behar. The *khanjan* is considered sacred by the Hindus. The black spot on its white breast is regarded as emblematic of the *salgram* idol, and its sight is regarded to be very propitious for a journey if the bird happens to be facing towards a particular direction at the time. There is a very old custom in the ruling family of Cooch Behar of seeing the *khanjan* on the morning of the Vijaya-Dasami day. The Jatra ceremony is held in front of the Palace when the Duar-Buxi gets on the *Pat* elephant, and, taking a bird in his hand, rests it for a moment on a lotus leaf spread on the head of the elephant, and then releases it. The spectators have a momentary view of it as it darts away. The former Maharajas used to be present at the ceremony; now only the Rajgans and the Hindu officers of the State attend it. As the bird is not easily caught, there is a man who has to supply it on the Dasami day. He holds a jaigir for this service.

Jatra ceremony.

Worms and Insects.—The common flies, some of which have shining bodies and wings, and butterflies of various sorts, the bee, hornet, wasp, beetle, cricket, grass-hoppers and locusts are largely met with. Spiders of different sizes are also common. The fire-flies or glow-worms are very numerous, and on a dark night the bushes and thickets become simply ablaze with these shining insects. The common gnat is not rare, and is not less troublesome than in the Southern Districts of Bengal. The *dansh* or the large gnat is met with in the jungly tracts, and so severe is its sting that the inflammation becomes really painful, and does not subside for days together. The *suya*, *bichha* and *chella* become very troublesome during the hot and rainy seasons. The red *kelloi* is very large here; worms even seven or eight inches long and proportionally thick are not rare. A smaller species, about an inch long and of a dull brown colour, which moves in packs like the ant, is very common. The lumious *bichha* is another speices, and it glows like the fire-fly. Ants of different sorts are largely met with. The large ants are called *dai* and *mejeli* or *kath-pipra*; the former is larger in size, but bite of the latter is more painful. Of the smaller ants two different species are found, namely, red and black. The red ants bite, but the black ants do not. White ants are almost a pest here. In the jungly tracts, amongst reeds and long grasses, ant-hills sometimes eight or ten feet high are to be found. The white ant is a favourite food with the bear which generally lives in the hill by digging a cave in it. The bug is as much a nuisance as it could be. Leeches, both large and small, called *mashe* and *chhinna*, respectively, are met with. Small oyster shells and snails of different sizes and varieties are found in the marhes. The *Jugis*

prepare lime by burning the shells which is used by the people with *pan* and betel-nut. Earth-worms and worms of some other kinds are very common. Silk-worm grows wild, and is nurtured for endi-silk. It feeds on casteroil and *makai* leaves.

Dried fish called *padma kashtha.*

Fishes.—Fishes are numerous in the rivers and *beels* of Cooch Behar, and large varieties are met with. The people exceedingly love fish which is eaten both fresh and dried. The dried fish is called *sutka*, and has been nick-named *padma kastha* or sandal wood, by the people of Lower Bengal, from its very offensive smell. It is generally imported from places near the Brahmaputra, where the drying process is carried on on a very extensive scale.

Fishing castes.

Men of almost every caste, with the exception of the Brahmins, catch fish for their own consumption. The fishing castes are, however, the *Jalias* or *Machuyas*, *Sikaries*, *Bajaris*, *Tiyars* and Garos.

Fishing implements.

Rod fishing is very common, especially during the rains. The other fishing instruments are the *jakai*, *palo*, *thosa*, *daru*, and *ramdaru*, all made of bamboo. The commonest mode of catching fish in *beels* and *nalas*, is by erecting a fixed engine going by the name *jan*. To do this, an embankment is thrown across a *nala*, or the narrowest part of the *beel* through which the water generally flows out, leaving a small opening in the middle about four or five feet wide, for the passage of the water. A *pata*, which may be likened to an immense sieve, made of bamboo finely split and woven with rope, is then spread against the current, touching the water at the gap in the embankment, the other end being kept a little high. The space between this contrivance and the bottom of the *nala* is at the same time closed through the water with a second *pata* so as to bar the progress of the fish. Now, as the fish comes with the current and finds an obstruction in the *pata* across the *nala*, it leaps up and falls on the sieve spread in front of it, and is at once caught by the men who lie in waiting. In this way the engine works automatically, and large numbers of fish are caught every day. As a rule net is used by the professional fishermen. But they have no large nets, like the *berjal* in use in the Padma and the Brahmaputra, and netting is not always very sucessful. The art of fishing cannot be said to have much advanced in this country.

The *Jan.*

Jhil

In catching the *ilish* fish, the fishermen often erect what is called *jhil* in a running stream. Long bamboo poles with their heads split in two are driven into the bed of the river in a single row from either bank, and an open space is left in the middle where a net is spread. The bamboos are placed 8 or 10 feet apart and 3 or 4 feet of them remain out of water. They are continually shaken by the force of the current, and their parted heads go on striking each other, and thus serve to give a continual alarm to the

fishes which come against them. In their panic to avoid the sounding bamboos the fishes rush through the midstream, and are caught in the net. The net has to be taken out, emptied of the fish, and re-set very frequently.

The fishes commonly found in the rivers and *beels* of the State are the following :—

Big fish with scales.—*Rohit, katla, putitar, chongatar, ghareya, mirgel, kalbaus, bholong, raichang, sal, silthoka, saul, khatti, bhangna kursa, ilish, chital and jali.* Some of these fishes are peculiar to this country, or rather to the districts near the hills. These are the *putitar, chongatar, ghareya, bholong, silthoka, raichang* and *bhangna*. These are all fish of the *Rohit* species, and closely resemble the *mirgel* in appearance. The *ghareya* is like *kalbous*, but has a narrower mouth. *Putitar* and *chongatar* are found to be of large size, and often attain the length of a full grown man. They are good to eat, although less relishable than the *rohit* or *katla*. Like the *kalbous, ghareya* is not considered as wholesome food. The flesh of *bholong* and *silthoka* is soft and is not relishable.

Bhangna and *raichang* are almost the same fish with this exception that while the lower part of the one is of a yellowish hue that of the other is white. They are both good eating. *Khatti* is the name for the *sorputi* of Southern Bengal, as is *kursa* for the *batke* ; but the *kursa* has a better taste than the *batke*. Although classed as big fish, the *raichang, khatti, bhangna* and *kursa* do not often weigh more than half a seer or one pound.

Small fish with scales.—Among these may be mentioned, *khorsula* and *boradi* ; *chela, karteya* and *phensa* ; *garai, sati*, and *chengti* ; *kai, bheda*, and *khalisa* ; *chanda, darika* and *mana* ; *punthi* and *tit-punthi* ; and *bain* and *kankle*. Of these only the *bareli* is peculiar to this State as well as the Northern Districts of Bengal. The *bareli* resembles the *tatkini* of Eastern Bengal, but is more palatable. It is in fact the sweetest of the small fishes.

Big fish without scales.—These are the *kacha, bay-ayr, ayr, gharuya, bacha, chhilan, ritha, kaunia* and *boal*. The *kacha* is the *dhain* of Southern Bengal.

Small fish without scales.—The chief of these are the *paba* or *papta, bansh-pata, tengra, bora-tengra, balia, magoor, singi* or *jial*, and *tepa*.

Shell-fish.—The general name for prawn or shrimp is *icha*. Two species of this are found,—small and large. The small *icha* does not exceed an inch in length. The bigger species generally attain three or four inches. They are, however, only little things when compared with the *golla-chingri* of Southern Bengal. Crabs

are found in the marshes and ditches during the rains. They are small in size, never exceeding two inches in length.

Domestic Animals.—The beasts of burden are the elephant, horse, ass, bullock and buffallo. Horses and bullocks are used for carrying *tongis* or loads; the latter are also yoked to carts. Cows are largely employed for tilling the land, sometimes alone, but more generally with the bullocks. The condition of the country-cow, bullock and horse is not good. They are small animals, and not sufficiently strong for rough and hard work. Up-country bullocks are imported in large numbers every year, and these are used for drawing carts, the number of which is rapidly increasing with the opening up of the country by roads and railways. Thirty years ago, there were very few carts in the State, and loads had to be carried on *tangi* or pad-bullocks. Cattle generally small.

An attempt was made during the minority of His Highness to improve the breed of cattle, and a Cattle-Breeding Farm was established, and strong bulls and cows were imported from the Upper Provinces. The trial was not, however, fully successful. There are at present some up-country bulls at the Sudder, and several in the interior, the services of which are willingly availed of by the people. Cattle-Breeding Farm.

Of the domestic pets the dog, cat, pigeon, *mayna* and *tiya* or parrot are the chief. The deer and hare are also commonly tamed. Bhutia dogs can be had here from the nomadic tribes of Matihari, who come here during winter. No trade is carried on in the skins or horns of wild beasts, or in the feathers of birds. There is some trade in the hides of buffalo, cow and sheep. No cattle, however, are slaughtered for their hide. The killing of cow is prohibited in the State, it being an offence punishable with imprisonment and fine. The practice is looked upon with abhorrence even by the Mahomedans of this country. Slaughter of cow prohibited.

SECTION. II.

Flora.

The flora of the country are too numerous, and too varied in species to be either fully enumerated or adequately noticed within the limited space of a short account of the State. Cooch Behar is pre-eminently the land of foliage and flowers. Its alluvial soil favours the growth of vegetables, and contributes to the richness Flora numerous and varied.

of its natural objects. Its vegetable world possesses a freshness and vigour which is only met with in tracts near the hills, and can hardly be found in the southern districts of Bengal. It is a wilderness of trees and plants, of creepers and climbers, of grasses and ferns, all bursting with life and verdure. Even the merest plant and the tiniest leaf forcibly illustrate the rich properties of the soil.

Number of trees proportionately small.

Although the trees are not as numerous as could be expected from the luxuriance of its vegetable growth, there is not a single species in southern Bengal which is missed in this country.

Bamboo predominates.

The most predominating element, however, is bamboo, which grows abundantly all over the State, and is the first thing which meets the eye on approaching a village.

No forest worth the name.

Although bushes and brush-woods are plentiful, there is no forest worth the name. Some small patches of land containing *Sál* trees are, however, in existence in different parts of the country. A few *Shishu* and teak plantations have also been made by the State, and there are moreover some good *Shishu* avenues grown along the important roads. The area under these patches of forests and plantations does not, however, exceed 30,000 Bighas or about 10,000 acres.

Area under forests and plantations.

Flora noticed under ten heads.

The flora of the State may be shortly noticed under the following fourteen heads :—(*1*) *Palms*, (*2*) *bamboos*, (*3*) *plantains*, (*4*) *timber trees*, *brush-wood* and *minor plants*, (*5*) *fruit-trees*, (*6*) *flowers*, (*7*) *creepers*, (*8*) *spices*, and *medicinal plants* and *herbs*, (*9*) *aquatic plants* and *weeds*, and (*10*) *minor grasses* and *jungles*, (*11*) *ferns* and *orchids*, (*12*) *aroid plants*, (*13*) *fungi*, and (*14*) *grains* and *vegetables cultivated in the country*.

Seven kinds of palms.

Narikel.

(*1*) *Palms*—Of this species the following seven varieties are generally met with :—(*a*) The *Narikel* or cocoanut palm. This valuable palm is not extensively grown, although there is no reason to suppose that it can not flourish in the State. In Dinhata and places near the town of Cooch Behar it is seen to produce good fruits. The best trees are known to yield one hundred friuts a year. The produce of this palm is, however, totally inadequate to meet the demand of the country, and the supply is made by southern Bengal, which is annually brought in boats during the rains, and is sold at Rs. 40 to Rs. 50 per thousand. (*b*) The *khejur* or date-palm is very rare, and is not regularly grown. The people do not know the art of tapping the tree, and of preparing sugar or *tari* from its juice. Some good trees have been grown in the Cooch Behar Jail by way of experiment, which are now being tapped. They seem to yield less sugar than in southern Bengal. (*c*) The *guá* or betel-nut palm. This is very largely cultivated in the State

Khejur.

Gua, or betel-nut of two kinds.

with great success, and there is not a respectable householder who has not got a betel-nut garden attached to his house. The area under this palm in the country is 7,632 Bighas, or about 2,500 acres. A full grown tree yields from 400 to 500 nuts a year. Two kinds of nuts are usually grown,—the *deshwáli*, a species peculiar to this State, and the neighbouring British Districts, and *bangla*, apparently introduced from the Districts of southern Bengal. The former flowers between the middle of August and the middle of September, and ripens between the early part of February and the beginning of April. The *bangla* variety flowers in June and July, and ripens between the middle of October and the middle of December. The *bangla gua* is now by far the most common in the State. (*d*) The *tál* is not largely grown. It is used for its fruits, and no *tári* or juice is drawn from the tree. Fans and toys are prepared with the *tál-leaf*. The *tál-donga*, or canoe prepared from the stem of the *tál* tree, which is so commonly met with in southern Bengal, is unknown in this country. (*e*) The *chá-guá* is a beautiful palm and grows all over the State, chiefly in the thickets near the villages. No use is made of the tree, excepting the fibres which are used in making fishing engines of bamboo. (*f*) Two species of dwarf palm, one closely resembling the *tál* palm, and the other the *khejur* palm in appearance, are found in the country, specially near the eastern borders. They are not, however, applied to any use. (*g*) The *rám-gua* is a small spieces of the areca, with a very thin stem, and eight or nine feet high. It grows in clusters.

Deshwali and *bangla*.

Tal.

Cha-gua.

Dwarf-palm.

Ram-gua.

(*2*) *Bamboos*.—Five different kinds of bamboo are found in the country. (*a*) *Bara-bánsh*, or big bamboo, is the same as *barua-bánsh* of southern Bengal. It has a thick stem and joints lying close to each other, and is used for posts and rafters of huts. (*b*) *Makhlá-bánsh* is a species purely indigenous to the districts near the Himalayas. It closely resembles the *tallá-bánsh* of the southern Districts of Bengal in appearance. It is straight and slender, can be very finely split, and is not subject to the attack of moth. This bamboo is very light, and is split without any exertion. Good fishing rods are made with it. (*c*) *Jáota-bánsh*, resembles the *mákhlá*, but is less straight, and has got less even fibres. It is chiefly used as fuel, and for rough works connected with house-building. (*d*) *Beru-bánsh*, or prickly bamboo, with thickly set branches containing sharp prickles, is of the same kind as is met with in southern Bengal. (*e*) *Nal-bánsh*, or reed-bamboo, is very slender and light, and looks almost like a giant reed, after which it is named. It is of little use to the people, as it can not stand any amount of pressure.

Five varieties of bamboo.

Bara-bansh.

Makhla-bansh.

Jaota-bansh

Beru-bansh.

Nal-bansh.

(*3*) *Plantains*—The plantain grows plentifully in the alluvial soil of Cooch Behar and yields abundant crops of fruits. It grows

Twelve varieties of plantain.

even wild in many places. The following twelve species are ordinarily found in this country :—(*a*) The common *biche kala*, called here *athia*, is very sweet. (*b*) The *jhama kala*, called *shilatiya* by the people, with plenty of hard and rough seeds, is as common as in southern Bengal. (*c*) The *kancha kala*, used while green in curries, is called *bherua* when ripe. (*d*) The *manua kala* is the same as *madna*, or *daya kala* of the southern Districts of Bengal. (*e*) The *chini-manua* is a species peculiar to this country, and ranks midway between the *manua*, and *champa* in flavour and taste. (*f*) The *champa kala* grows abundantly in this country, (*g*) The *malbhog* is the *martaman* or *savari* of southern Bengal and the fruits attain a good size here. (*h*) The *chini-malbhog* is a species intermediate between the *champa* and the *malbhog* or *martaman*. (*i*) *Bhartaman* is the name of a species to be found perhaps only in this State and its neighbourhood, and is characterised by its green skin even when ripe, and a very soft pulp within. It has a good taste. (*j*) The *jahaji-malbhog* is the same as *kanai-banshi* of southern Bengal ; the fruits are often a foot in length. and look green even when ripe. (*k*) The *jahaji-kala* is a dwraf plantain with a large number of leaves, and bears small fruits in big clusters. (*l*) The *ram-kala* with a thick tapering trunk is far from being scarce here.

Bheruá-kalá

Bhartamán

(*4*) *Timber-trees, brush-wood and minor plants*—The giants of the vegetable world, here as elsewhere in Bengal, are *bat* or banyan, and *ashvatha*, or peepul, which attain huge proportions in the loose soil of the country. *Nakur* is a species allied to *pakur* or *ashvatha* but has smaller leaves. Figs of two kinds, *dumur* and *jagnadumur*, are generally found. *Kuchli* bears fig-like fruits, but only in clusters near the stem.

Good timber trees.

Of the timbers *sal*, *shishu*, and teak are the chief. *Panwa* also possesses a good hard wood. Some fruit trees, such as jack, *gab* and *jam*, yield excellent timber, especially the first, which takes on polish of the first order. *Babla*, *khayer*, *dhawli*, *kat-gua*, and *salti* also give hard wood, the last four kinds being indigenous to this country and its neighbourhood. *Kadam* and mango have a stiff wood, inferior to the foregoing, but largly used by the people in making the shutters for doors and windows, and household articles of furniture. *Deva-daru* possesses a straight trunk and makes good masts. The wood of the cotton-tree (*shimul*) lasts a long time when not exposed to the sun or rain ; planks made from it are used in making the floor and ceiling of houses.

Rain-tree.

The rain-tree, called *talli*, grows extensively in the State. A species allied to it is *krishna-chura*, which yields nice red and yellow flowers in bunches. The *sonali*, when in flower, looks charming in an uniform yellow colour.

Among other minor trees may be mentioned *jigni*, or *bhaja-bali*, *pitha-kumer*, *chhatiyan*, *sewra*, *chhitki*, and *hijal*. *Tut* or mulberry grows wild, and supplies food to the silkworm (*endi*) which also feeds on caster-oil and *makai* plants. Minor trees

(5) *Fruit-trees*—All the fruit trees found in Bengal are met with in the State more or less abundantly. The mango of Cooch Behar is worthless and sour, with worms inside. The *kancha-mitha-am*, which is called *bhog-am* here, grows plentifully all over the country. The jack tree is numerous, and gives fruits profusely. Jack is very cheap in the State. The *ata* is not very common. No *kat-bael* is found in the country. The *dalim* or pomegranate of Cooch Behar is exceedingly sour. An inferior species of the orange, going by the name of *santara*, is grown here and there. The *latka* and *thaikar* are very common. The peach is not rare. The pine-apple, which is called by the people *kantal-supri*, grows in wild profusion every where. The *pepiya*, going here by the name of *tarmul*, is generally very tasteful. The *lata-kul* or plum-shrub grows plentifully all over the country and gives fruits profusely. It is not found lower down in Bengal. Although the fruit is not as big as a tree-plum, it is often of good taste. All kinds of fruits met with. No *kat-bael*.

The *haritaki*, called by the people *kashal*, *amlaki*, *bahera*, and *ritha* are by no means rare fruits in the country. The State encourages the growing of good fruits, and now and then distributes grafts of mango, lichee, guava, lemon, palm and other good fruit-trees which are now in demand in the towns and Bunders, and even in remote villages of the State. Experience shows that the *lichee* can be grown here with success. The cultivation of mango, however, has hitherto been a failure. Cultivation of good fruits encouraged by State.

(6) *Flowers*—Cooch Behar may aptly be called the land of flowers, which grows profusely and in large varieties all over the country. The *naga-keshar* or *nageswar*, which is not commonly found in many parts of Bengal, is by no means rare here. The rose grows in profusion, and is found also in a wild state. The *ketaki* grows almost everywhere; but the species giving flower is all but rare. Flowers grow profusely.

(7) *Creepers*—Creepers of various descriptions are found in the country. Some are cultivated and others grow wild. Leaving out of account the garden vegetables, *pan* and *chai* may be mentioned as the chief among the former. *Pan* of two different kinds are cultivated—*tree-pan* and *barui-pan*. The aromatic or scented kind, called *chhanchi*, is met with both among the *tree-pan* and the *barui-pan*.

The creepers growing wild are simply innumerable. One of these deserves special mention. In thick woods and jungles a *Dakini* creeper.

kind of stout and very long creeper is found entwining itself around big trees. It is often above an inch in diameter, and is called *dakini* by the people. When cut in lengths of 2 or 3 feet by a smart sweep of the *dao* or axe, and turned upside down, it gives clear and refreshing water in drops which can wet the throat of the thirsty woodman or the weary hunter.

(*8*) *Spices and medicinal plants, herbs and weeds*—Cinnamon, *tejpat*, clove, pepper, especially the second and the fourth, are largely found in the country. *Nim*, *kutraj*, *nishinda*, *apang*, *bach*, *bhang*, *swet-makal*, *gulancha*, *nata*, and other medicinal plants and herbs are not rare. The *shij* plant, both prickly and plain, is commonly met with. The *shata-mul* and *ananta-mul*, are found in large quantities in the jungly tracts. The *kuchli* plant is found in every part of the State.

(*9*) *Aquatic plants and weeds*—Among these may be mentioned the following :—Lotus, *kumud*, *sinhar*, *keshur*, *pana*, *sewla*, *sola*, *kalmi*, *susuni*, and *dal* grass. The red *kumud*, and white *padma* are found in the State.

(*10*) *Minor grasses and jungles.*—The reed, *khagra*, *ikar*, and *bans* of many kinds are found all over the State. A kind of aromatic grass, like the lavender grass, is met with among the grass jungles. The *gan-binna* is also an aromatic species. The *khor* or thatching grass grows plentifully every where. The cane is not very common. *Pundi* and *hogla* are very common.

(*11*) *Ferns and orchids.*—A few varieties of orchids grow wild on the trunks and boughs of old trees. A parasitic growth, going by the name of *gadda-pakhi*, looks like a bird on its wings. It has a small cylindrical body covered with a soft brown moss, with a few leaves on either side of it which have a likeness to the wings of birds.

The commonest fern growing in almost any place is called *dheki*. Its young leaves are eaten by the people as a *sak*.

Garo-kachu, peculior to this tate.

(*12*) *Aroid plants.*—*Kachus* of different kinds can be found—*man*, *pani-kachu*, called *sola-kachu* in some parts of southern Bengal, *ghat-kachu*, and *anaji*, or *dastal*, being the chief. A species, not perhaps found in other parts of Bengal, called *garo-kachu*, has more than one root stocks joined together, and is of excellent taste. Several species of *kachu* grows wild, some of which have spotted leaves. The state produces good *ol*.

(*13*) *Fungi.*—Mushrooms of different kinds are found in the country. Two varieties are common, some with tapering heads, and others with flat tops like the taod-stool. A kind of mildew is also found on the trunks of old trees.

(*14*) *Grains and vegetables cultivated in the country.*—All the

cereals produced in the Lower Provinces of Bengal are cultivated in this State to a more or less extent. Different kinds of late and early paddy (*bitri* and *haimanti*), *china* and *kaon*, wheat and barley, and maize are grown all over the country. No *boro* paddy is, however, cultivated here. Pulses of different descriptions, with the exception of *mash-kalai*, such as pea, *kheshári*, *moog*, *musur*, *kulti*, *thákri*, and *rahar*, are raised by the people. The oilseeds ordinarily cultivated are mustard-seed, *til* and *tishi*. Among the fibres jute, *shan* and *kunkura* or rhea are the chief. Tobacco of very good quality is grown in the country; in fact it is one of the agricultural products for which Cooch Behar is specially known. Cereals. Pulses. Fibres and tobacco.

All sorts of garden vegetables are grown by the people in large quantities. Potato, brinjal, *mula* or radish, *kachu*, onion, and garlic are very extensively cultivated. Other vegetables ordinarily found in Bengal are also raised here in a more or less degree; only *uchhe* is not grown in this country. Garden vegetables.

Formerly, good *taramuj* or water-melon was not known in the State. Some upcountry men have been cultivating this fruit, as well as *kharmuj*, *kánkri*, and *phuti*, from some time past, on the banks of the big rivers, in the town of Cooch Behar and some muffusil stations. The enterprise has proved a success.

PART II.
GENERAL CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

CHAPTER I.

POPULATION AND CENSUS.

SECTION I.

Population.

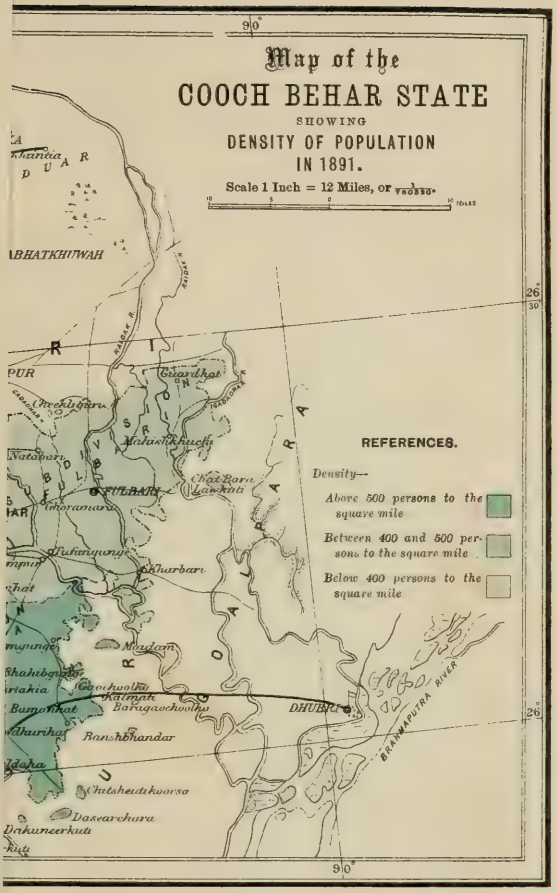
Population in 1891.

The population of the State, according to the Census of 1891, is 5,78,868 souls, of whom 3,02,457 are males, and the remainder, namely, 2,76,411, females. The density of population is 443 to the square mile. There are 82 houses per square mile, and the average number of persons occupying a house is 5·4. The following table shows in detail the figures for the different sub-divisions :—

Names of Sub-divisions.	Area in square miles.	Number of occupied houses.	Population.			No. of houses per square mile.	No. of persons per square mile.	No. of persons per occupied house.
			Males.	Females.	Total.			
Sudder	309	25,674	68,830	60,413	129,243	83	418	5·0
Mathabhanga ...	345	27,047	74,512	69,422	143,934	78	417	5·3
Dinhata	270	27,859	75,541	71,283	146,824	103	544	5·2
Mekhligunj ...	194	14,548	45,031	40,730	85,761	74	439	5·9
Tufangunj ...	189	12,687	38,543	34,563	73,106	67	387	5·8
TOTAL ...	1,307	107,815	302,457	276,411	578,868	82	443	5·4

Density of population.

The density of population is the greatest in sub-division Dinhata, being 544 to the square mile. This part of the State, bordering as it does on the District of Rangpur, was at one time the most important and prosperous tract in the whole country, and attracted people in large numbers. Mekhligunj, which is in a manner surrounded by the regulation Districts of Rangpur and Jalpaiguri, comes next with 439 persons to the square mile. The Sudder sub-division, although lying in the interior, contains the seat of Government and largely commands trade and commerce. It has 418 souls to the square mile, and stands third. Mathabhanga, although a prosperous tract, is considerably in the interior and has not yet



Litho., S. I. O., Calcutta.


Map of the
COOCH BEHAR STATE
SHOWING
DENSITY OF POPULATION
IN 1891.
Scale 1 Inch = 12 Miles, or 1/760560
REFERENCES.
Density—
Above 800 persons to the square mile
Between 400 and 800 persons to the square mile
Below 400 persons to the square mile
REFERENCES
Road
Railway
Police Station
Outpost
River
COOCH BEHAR
DINHATA
DIMLAH
DEVIGUNGE
MEKHLIGUNGE
CHALTHAKI
SITALKUCHI
PATGRAM
MATHABHANGA
TUFANGANJ
DHUBRI
ALIPUR
JULPAIGURI
MAINAGURI
SHIKARPUR
RAJABHATKHUWAH
RAXA
BAMANDANGA
BARNES
BARNESS
BARNESS
BARNESS

been much opened out; it ranks fourth, having 417 persons to the square mile. Tufangunj, the easternmost of the sub-divisions, borders on the Eastern and the Western Duars and has not yet been fully populated. The density of population here is 387 to the square mile.

Proportion of females to males.

In Cooch Behar, as in the neighbouring Districts of Rangpur and Jalpaiguri, the number of males predominates over the number of females. There are 302,457 males in the country, while the number of females is 276,411. The ratio is 10: 9. Thus, for every ten males there are nine females, or for every 1,000 males there are 900 females. The proportion of females in Cooch Behar is a little less than the average for the whole of Eastern and Northern Bengal, where the poportion of the male and the female population is 1,000: 966.

Largest in Dinhata and smallest in the Sudder Sub-Division.

The proportion of the sexes is not the same all over the State as will appear from the sub-joined table :—

Names of Sub-divisions.	Number of males.	Number of females.	Number of females per every 1,000 males.
Sudder	68,830	60,413	860
Mathabhanga	74,512	69,422	920
Dinhata	75,541	71,283	940
Mekhligunj	45,031	40,730	900
Tufangunj	38,543	34,563	880
Total ...	302,457	276,411	900

Density of houses.

The number of homesteads or occupied houses in the State is 107,815. Taking the area of the country at 1,307 square miles, there are about 82 houses to the square mile. Every household is on an average composed of 5·4 members. These figures generally tally with those for the whole of Lower Bengal, where there are about 91·5 houses to the square mile, and 5·5 members in each household.

Among the different sub-divisions the density of houses is the largest in Dinhata, giving 103 to the square mile, and the smallest in Tufangunj, which has 67 houses to the square mile. The Sudder stands second, having 83 houses to the square mile. Next comes

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Mathabhanga with 78 houses, and Mekhligunj stands fourth with 74 houses to the square mile.

Strength of household.

But the strength of the household does not follow its density. While Dinhata stands first in point of density of households, the average strength of a family there is 5·2, and gives it the fourth place amongst the sub-divisions. Tufangunj on the other hand, although possessing the smallest proportion of houses, stands second in regard to the strength of the family, having 5·8 members on an average. Mekhligunj stands first with 5·9 members. Mathabhanga occupies the third place with 5·3 members, while the Sudder comes last with only 5 members.

SECTION II.

Census.

First regular Census in 1872.

No attempt at an enumeration of the inhabitants of Cooch Behar was made before the Census of 1872. As in the other districts of what then formed the Cooch Behar Division, it was not attempted to take a simultaneous census of the people. The census of the State was effected by the Settlement Officers. It commenced in November 1871, and was completed in February 1872.

The result disclosed a total population of 532,565 persons, living in 1,199 villages and townships, and in 81,820 houses. The area of the State was 1,307 square miles, showing an average density of population of 407 persons per square mile. The average number of persons per house was 6·5.

Census of 1881.

The next census was taken in 1881, when the total population was ascertained to be 602,624, or 13·15 percent in excess over that of 1872. The number of occupied houses was 115,720, the average population per square mile was 461, and that of a house 5·02.

Census of 1891.

The third census was effected in 1891, and, with the ascertained population of 578,868, showed a decrease of 3·9 per cent. on the population of 1881, but an increase of 9·25 per cent. on that of 1872. The number of occupied houses was found to be 107,815, showing a decrease of 6·8 per cent. on that of 1881, but an increase of 31·8 per cent. on that of 1872. The number of persons per square mile was 443, and marked a decrease of 18 since 1881, but an increase of 26 persons since 1872. The average number of persons per house was about 5·5.

The decrease of population since 1881 was, as will be noticed hereafter, due chiefly to two epidemics of cholera and migration. There was a decrease in every part of the State except in the north-east, which was under the Fulbari Thana, and which now roughly marks the jurisdiction of the Tufangunj sub-division. The variation of population of the different sub-divisions between 1872 and 1891 is shown below :— Decrease explained.

Names of Sub-divisions.	Population in 1891.	Percentage of variation with 1881.	Percentage of variation between 1872 and 1881.	Percentage of variation between 1872 and 1891.
Sudder	129,243	— 4·0	+ 11·38	+ 7·38
Mathabhanga	143,934	— 6·7	+ 10·37	+ 3·67
Dinhata	146,824	— 5·5	+ 10·37	+ 4·87
Mekhligunj	85,761	— 2·0	+ 15·41	+ 13·41
Tufangunj	73,106	+ 3·7	+ 29·51	+ 33 21
Total ...	578,868	— 3·9	+ 13·15	+ 9·25

The figures show a large increase in all the sub-divisions during the 10 years from 1872 to 1881. The actual increase of population was not probably so great. "The great increase in 1881" remarks Mr. O'Donnell, Superintendent of Census Operations in Bengal in 1891, "was no doubt chiefly due to more accurate counting, but it was also certain that the State was healthy, prosperous and an object of attraction to immigrants, which is still the case in the Fulbari Thana in the east." However, taking the figures as they are, the increase was the largest in Tufangunj and the smallest in Mathabhanga and Dinhata. Tufangunj had then, as it has even now more than in other sub-division, large uncleared tracts, a thin population, and a rich soil, and could thus accommodate new comers better than any other place. Mathabhanga and Dinhata were fairly well populated and fully cultivated. They had therefore not much capacity for taking in new settlers. The greater portion of the increase was due to the coming in of immigrants from the neighbouring British Districts. Comparison of figures of 1872 and 1881.

The decrease in the population in the course of the next ten years was 3·9 per cent., numbering 23,756 souls. This was partly Decrease in next decade explained.

due to two outbreaks of cholera, one in 1883, and a severe epidemic in 1891, and partly to emigration into the Duars of Jalpaiguri. With all this, however, the increase in 1891 on the population of 1872 was still 9·25 per cent.

Net increase of population since 1872.

Notwithstanding the marked decrease in the tolal population in 1891, there was no actual falling off of the net population, deducting immigration and emigration, as compared with that in 1881. The State had not also lost its attraction for the immigrants. Its fertile soil and comparatively healthier climate continued to draw people from the neighbouring British Districts as in the previous decade.

The following table shows the variation of the net population from 1872 to 1891 :—

Year.	Total Population.		Immigrants.		Emigrants.		Net Population.		Percentage of variation of net population.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
	602,624		49,785		1,316		554,155			
1881 .	311,678	290,946	27,522	22,263	511	805	284,667	269,488		
	578,868		47,209		44,650		576,309			
1891 ...	302,457	276,411	27,990	19,219	24,011	20,639	298,478	277,831	+ 4·5	+ 2·8

It will be seen that the net population in 1881 was 554,155 against 576,309 in 1891. There was thus an increase of 22,154 souls in the net population in the course of the decade 1881-91. "It appears," to quote Mr. O'Donnell from the Census Report of 1891, "that instead of a decrease of 3·9 per cent. there has been an increase in the net population of 4·5 for males and 2·8 for females. Such a result was to be expected; for Cooch Behar, though subject to occasional invasions of cholera, is a generally healthy well-drained area intersected by several large rivers flowing from the Himalayas in unobstructed channels and yielding a pure water-supply."

Immigration and emigration.

Immigration was almost the same during the two decades, while emigration from the State between the years 1881 and 1891, far exceeds that between 1872 and 1881, having been 44,650 against 1,316. These emigrants generally come from the landless class and heavily pressed debtors, who leave the country in the hope of bettering their condition in a new land. Under an old decision of the Calcutta High Court, since overruled, the decrees for debts passed by the Civil Courts of the State could not be executed in

British territory. The debtors found in this fact a strong incentive to migrate.

As will appear from the marginal statement the immigrants and emigrants mostly come from and repair to the neighbouring districts of Rangpur, Jalpaiguri and also Assam, of which the District Goalpara skirts along the eastern borders of the State. In this connection Mr. O'Donnell remarks :—"It is a noticeable fact that whilst the number of immigrants is very little changed, Cooch Behar, which subscribed only 1,316 individuals to the neighbouring districts in 1881, has, during the past decade, sent forth 44,650 emigrants whom the equality of the numbers of men and women proves to have permanently left the State. Of these emigrants 36,288 have settled in Jalpaiguri presumably in the clearings along the southern fringe of the Duars forest where the rates of rent are very easy. Cooch Behar itself, however, seems to have a considerable attraction for outsiders, particularly for the people of Rangpur. Bihar contributes 6,494 men and 529 women, the great mass of the former being temporary residents who come for work only in the cold weather. Assam sends forth 2,544 men and 1,573 women, many of whom are permanent settlers."

Districts.	Immigrants.		Emigrants.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female
Rangpur ...	8,156	9,360	2,689	3,654
Jalpaiguri ...	4,841	5,832	20,085	16,203
Assam ...	2,544	1,573	951	560
Total ...	15,541	16,765	23,725	20,417
Dacca ...	794	212	84	63
Muzafferpur ...	1,140	95	...	...
Champaron ...	1,222	60	...	...
Sarun ...	2,434	206	...	...

Emigrants.

The persons who emigrate from the State mostly settle down along the northern and eastern borders in the Western Duars of Jalpaiguri, the Eastern Duars of Assam and Pargana Gaibari of the Rangpur district. The Duars, however, are not noted for their healthiness, and living amongst strangers in a new land is not always comfortable. It is therefore of not uncommon occurrence that the emigrants, suffering from the jungle malaria and thinned out by cholera, their cattle, the only valuable assets they possess, killed by wild animals or mowed down by the still more dreaded pestilence, have to seek the old country and old friends again, much wiser, perhaps, and considerably cured of the roving mania.

Foreigners in Cooch Behar.

The immigrants from Dacca are only temporary residents of the State and are generally the traders and shop-keepers who have their homes in the mother district. The emigrants from the

District of Bihar are the day-labourers who come out in large numbers in winter in search for employment. Many of these men have permanently settled down in the country, mostly in the town of Cooch Behar.

CHAPTER II.

TRIBES AND CASTES.

SECTION I.

Hindus and Musalmans.

Proportion of Hindus.

The people are generally composed of two elements: Hindus and Musalmans. Besides these there are some Meches, Garos and other animistic tribes, who are, however, grouped under Hindus. The Hindus number a little above 4 lacs, and form about 69½ per cent of the total population. In this respect Cooch Behar ranks 28th among the 38 Districts and Feudatory States of Bengal.

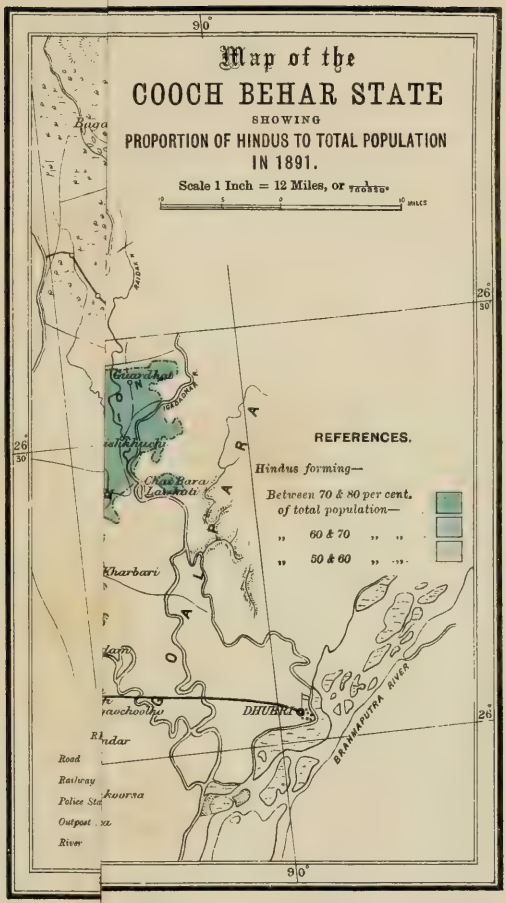
Proportion of Musalmans and other sects.

The Musalmans are 1,70,746 in number, and form about 30 per cent of the population. Other sects, such as Christians, Brahmos and the like, numbering 1,594, jointly make up the remaining one half per cent.

Their distribution among the sub-divisions.

The following table shews their distribution among the different sub-divisions :—

Names of sub-divisions.	Total population.	HINDUS.		MUSALMANS.		OTHER SECTS.	
		Number.	Percentage on total population.	Number.	Percentage on total population.	Number.	Percentage on total population.
Sudder	1,29,243	97,034	75·0	31,654	24·5	555	·5
Mathabhanga ...	1,43,934	1,09,753	76·25	34,138	23·72	43	·03
Dinhata	1,46,824	97,001	66·06	49,727	33·88	94	0·6
Mekhligunge ...	85,761	49,862	58·03	35,863	41·92	36	·05
Tufangunge ...	73,106	52,875	72·3	19,364	26·5	867	1·2
Total. ...	5,78,868	4,06,528	69·53	1,70,746	30·10	1,594	·37



To face page

Litho., S. I. O., Calcutta.


Map of the
COOCH BEHAR STATE
SHOWING
PROPORTION OF HINDUS TO TOTAL POPULATION
IN 1891.
Scale 1 Inch = 12 Miles, or 1/760320.
REFERENCES.
Hindus forming—
Between 70 & 80 per cent. of total population—
,, 60 & 70 ,, ,,
,, 50 & 60 ,, ,,
REFERENCES
Road
Railway
Police Station
Outpost
River
COOCH BEHAR
DINHATA
MEKHLIGUNGE
MATHABHANGA
HALDIBARI
SITALKUCHI
DIMLAH
DEVIGUNGE
TUFANGANJ
KHARIBARI
PATGRAM
JULPAIGURI
MAINAGURI
SHIKARPUR
ALIPUR
RAJABHATKHUWAH
DHUBRI
BRAHMAPUTRA River
RAXA
AMBARI
Bhagarkote
Mal bazar
Jaiguri
Madarhat
Kakina
Bamanhat
Kakina
Kakina
Kakina

It will be seen that the Hindus outnumber the Mahomedans in every part of the State. As between the different sub-divisions the proportion of the Hindus is the largest in sub-division Mathabhanga, being about 76 per cent of the total population. Next comes Sudder with 75 per cent. Tufangunj ranks next with 72 per cent. Dinhata has 66 per cent and stands fourth, while Mekhligunj is the last with only 58 per cent. Hindus predominate everywhere in the State.

The Mahomedans, on the other hand, are the largest in Mekhligunj, forming 41 per cent of the entire population. Dinhata comes next with 33 per cent, followed by Tufangunj with 26 per cent. The Sudder stands fourth with 24 per cent, and Mathabhanga comes last with only 23 per cent. Largest proportion of Musalmans in Mekhligunj only.

Mathabhanga has thus got the largest proportion of Hindus and the smallest proportion of Mahomedans, while in Mekhligunj the case is just the reverse, the population of that sub-division having the largest proportion of Mahomedans and the smallest proportion of Hindus in the whole State. Tufangunj occupies a position intermediate between these two, none of the two elments in it being either too many or too few.

Hindus.—The following table gives the principal castes and sub-castes into which the Hindu population of the State is chiefly divided, including tribes who are not actually Musalmans :— Principal castes and sub-castes of Hindus.

A.—ARYAN RACE.

I.—High Caste Hindus.

Bráhman	...	...	...	6,129
Khatriya	...	...	...	232
Baidya	...	...	...	238
Káyastha	...	...	...	2,615

II.—Low Caste Hindus.

(a).—Navasaks or pure functional Sub-castes.

Bárui	...	...	...	80
Baniya	...	...	...	895
Goálá	...	...	...	1,666
Hálwai	...	...	...	134
Kaivarta	...	...	...	3,204
Káhár	...	...	...	599
Kámár	...	...	...	510
Kumár	...	...	...	1,110
Máli	...	...	...	97
Moirá	...	...	...	179
Nápit	...	...	...	2,999
Sadgope	...	...	...	26

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Kumár	...	...	...	1,110
Máli	...	...	...	97
Moirá	...	...	...	179
Nápit	...	...	...	2,999
Sadgope	...	...	...	26

Tánti	...	...	...	1,657
Teli	...	...	...	332

(b).—The unclean castes.

Dhopá	...	...	...	407
Hàri	...	...	...	3,172
Jáliyá	...	...	...	1,317
Jugi	...	...	...	4,972
Muchi	...	...	...	1,266
Pàtni	...	...	...	85

B.—SUBJECT TRIBES.[1]

I.—HINDUISED AND CLEAN.

Khen	...	...	...	4,755
Morangiá	...	...	...	2,380
Rájbansi	...	...	...	3,47,463

II.—HINDUISED AND UNCLEAN.

Bediyá	...	...	...	880
Dáoi	...	...	...	722
Dom	...	...	...	396
Namosudra or Chandal			...	4,486
Nuniyá	...	...	...	1,187

C.—ABORIGINAL TRIBES.

Gáro	...	...	...	1,261
Mech	...	...	...	3,778

Different tribes of Musalmans.

Musalmans.—The following table shows the distribution of the Musalman population into different tribes or sections :—

Moghal	...	...	...	49
Pathan including Sayads			...	1,146
Shekh including Nasyas			...	1,69,551

Moghals and Pathans are foreigners.

The Moghals and Pathans are almost all foreigners, although some of the latter can now be counted among the permanent residents of the State. By far the majority of the Musalmans are the Shekhs, or, as they are popularly called, *Nasyas*. They are, like the greater portion of the Mahomedans of India, descended from the Hindu converts to the religion of Mahammed. The title *Nasya* is significant. It is generally believed to be the corrupted form of *Nashta*, which means fallen or degenerated, and thus appears to be the most probable nickname which the Hindu subjects of a Hindu principality would give to their converted co-religionists.

Native Musalmans called *Nasyas*.

[1] Mr. O'Donnell, whose classification of castes and sub-castes has been mainly followed here, means by "subject tribes," the tribes "which the Aryan invaders of Northern India have conquered, more by the influence of religion than by the force of arms."—Census Report of 1891, Vol, III, page 265.

There seems to be a much greater effusion of Aryan blood in the veins of a *Nasya* than of an ordinary Hindu of the country. A *Nasya* is generally marked by his well cut features, long eyes and high nose. He is more cleanly in habits, more tidy and more active than the ordinary Rajvansi. In point of intelligence he is decidedly the superior of his Hindu neighbour. He is also more wily and less straight forward than the Rajvansi. As a man of business the former succeeds better than the latter. In short an ordinary Musalman of the country can be in a manner declared to be more refined than an ordinary Hindu. A *Nasya* is more refined than a Hindu

There are some well-to-do Mahomedan families in the west of Mekhligunj in what is ordinarily called Rahimgunj. Likewise there are some in the south of the Mathabhanga Subdivision. The *minas* of Sewti in Sub-division Dinhata are an old family of position, and are known for their hospitality. They are, however, now in much reduced circumstances.

Some men of this class have been honoured by the State with titles of distinction and seat in the Durbar.

SECTION II.

High caste Hindus.

Of the high caste Hindus Brahmans number 6,129 ; Baidyas, 238 ; and Kayasthas, 2,615. Most of these are, however, foreigners who either hold service under the State, or carry on business in the country. The native population may be roughly taken to contain 2,000 of the Brahmans and 700 of the Kayasthas ; there are no resident Baidyas in the country. They are old settlers from Bengal and Assam who have made Cooch Behar their home, and have cut off all connection with their old birth-place. High caste Hindus are mostly foreigners.

The native Brahmans are mostly of the *vaidic* class and are the descendants of those that were from time to time brought into the country by the Khen kings of Kamatapur, and by Maharajas Biswa Sing, Naranarayan and Prananarayan of the present dynasty, from Kanoj (Oudh), Mithila (Tirhoot), and Assam. They were encouraged to settle in the country by the grant of Brahmatter lands and stipends. They have settled near and around the town of Cooch Behar, mostly in Taluks Khagrabari, Takagach, Kaminirghat, Mainaguri and Baneswar. They do not differ much from the Brahmans of Lower Bengal in their religious and social customs and observances. There can not, however, be union by marriage between these two classes ; nor will the one take food cooked by the other in any social feast. This is attributable not to the Native Brahmans are *Vaidics*.

inferiority of any class, but to the jealously strict rules which bind the Hindu society in matters of food and marriage in general. In fact neither of the two classes yields to the other in social superiority.

Khagrabari is the principal seat of Brahminism.

The Brahmans of Khagrabari as being the most in royal favour are generally fairly educated in Sanskrit. Some men born here have been known for their erudition. Purusottam Vidyabagisha Bhattacharyaya composed a Sanskrit grammar of note named Ratnamala in Maharaja Naranarayan's time. This is a popular work on Sanskrit grammar in Assam, and is studied as a text book in the *Toles* in preference to *Panini* or *Mugdhabodha*. Pandit Vikramananda Tarkalanker was the Pandit attached to the Rajsava of Maharaja Narendranarayan for expounding the Hindu Law. He composed some Sanskrit books. The present Dwar Pandit Sidhya Nath Bidyabagisha is a learned man, and has brought out a good commentary of the Ratnamala Vyakarana. He has lately been decorated by the Maharaja with the honorary title of *Maha-maha-dhyapaka*. These Pandits keep some *Toles* where Sanskrit grammar, Literature, Rhetoric, Logic and *Smrities* are taught in the old Hindu style. English education has not much progressed among these Brahmans. Although they now send their boys to the school and let them study English only a few have as yet gone beyond the elementary stage of high education. Several of them are now serving the State in different capacities. Some have acquired landed property, and are tolerably well off.

Author of *Ratnamala*

The majority of the native Brahmans are without education worth the name, and are leading a hand to mouth existence like the majority of their co-religionists of Lower Bengal.

Some *Radhis* and *Barendras* in the State.

Besides the native Brahmans noted above there is a small number of Radhi and Barendra Brahmans who have settled in the country. They are comparatively new settlers, whose ancestors first came to the State as officials. They gradually acquired influence and property, and finally settled in the country. Their descendants are still to be found here, mostly in Gobrachhara and Bamanhat in the Dinhata Sub-division. They are generally well-to-do men. In fact the first Zemindars of the State are the Mustafis of Gobrachhara. They have connection with the Brahmans of Bengal.

Kayasthas mostly resident of Dinhata

The old settlers amongst the Kayasthas are also to be found mostly in Dinhata, which was at one time the most important part of the country, and, being near the Regulation Districts of Bengal, invited settlers. They too are the descendants of the old state officers who acquired landed property and ultimately settled in the country. They are, however, now in comparatively indigent circumstances.

SECTION III.

The Rajvansi caste.

Rajvansis are Hindus.

The most predominating element in the population is composed of the Rajvansis, as the native Hindus of the old Koch tribe are called. They are 347,463 in number, forming about 60 percent of the entire, and 87 per cent of the Hindu, population of the State.

Ethnology of this tribe.

The origin of this tribe is not free from obscurity, and can not be clearly traced. There is a great difference of opinion among the authorities on the subject. Dr. Buchannan Hamilton, who visited Eastern India in the beginning of the nineteenth century, is of opinion that all tribes having the name of "Koch" are sprung from the same stock, and that most of the Rajvansis are "Koches". This tribe of Koch is regarded by him to be aboriginal of Kamrup, and as having a common origin with the Chinese and other nations that compose the great race of the eastern parts of the ancient continent. He considers the *Pani-koch*, a small tribe he found in the forests of Parbat Joyar in a very rude state of society, living among the woods and frequently changing their abode in order to cultivate lands that had been enriched by a fallow, as the primitive representatives of the race. He, however, distinguishes them from the *Garos* and other rude tribes, such as, *Rabhas*, *Meches* and the like.

Mr. Buchannan thinks they are aboriginal of Kamrup.

Doctor W. W. Hunter in his Statistical Account of Cooch Behar cites it as the common opinion supported by the authority of Mr. Hodgson, and Dr. Latham, that the Koches are connected with the neighbouring tribes of *Meches* and *Kachharis*, and are of Mongolian or trans-Himalayan extraction. Colonel Dalton, on the other hand, whose individial experience extends to the tribes of the north-east frontier as well as to the hill-men of Chutia Nagpur, draws a marked distinction between the Koches and their aboriginal neighbours, based mainly upon colour. The Meches being yellow are consequently referred by him to the Mongolian or Indo-chinese stock, of which he regards the *Garos* as the most pure type. Koches are black, or very dark, and are to be connected with the Dravadian, or Southern and Central Indian branch of the Turanians. The Pani Koch of Dr. Buchannan Hamilton are distinguished from the Koch proper by Colonel Dalton, whose theory has been endorsed by Mr. Beverley in his Census Report of 1872, and may be thus summed up:—"The Koch people appear to me to be entirely out of their element among the Lohitic tribes. From all that I have been able to glean regarding them, it seems more likely that they originally belonged to the dark people whom they resemble and who were driven out of the Gangetic Provinces when the Kingdoms of Mithila and Magadha were established by the lunar and solar races,

Dr. Hunter.

Mr. Hodgson. Dr. Latham.

Mr. Beverley.

rather than to the northern Turanian or Indo-chinese family, to which they are so unlike. In short I consider that they belong to the Dravadian stock, and are probably a branch of the great Bhuiya family ; and we thus obtain a clue to the traditions of the Bara-Bhuiyas to whose period of rule in Assam so many great works are ascribed"

Rajvansis are a mixed race.

In the midst of these rival theories concerning the ethnological affinities of the Koches, Dr Hunter finds one fact admitting of little doubt, namely, that the people commonly known as *Koch*, *Rajvansi* and *Pali* are a very mixed race.

Mr. Risley's views.

Mr. Risley in his Tribes and Castes of Bengal describes *Koch*, *Kochmandi*, *Rajvansi*, *Paliya* and *Desi*, under the same head, as a Dravadian tribe of North-eastern and Eastern Bengal, among whom there are grounds for suspecting some admixture of Mongolian blood. After citing the opinion of Colonel Dalton, Mr. Risley remarks :—

Rajvansis descended from Dravadian stock.

"A comparison of these opinions with my own observations and with the average cephalic, nasal and naso-malar indices of caste ascertained by a large number of actual measurements, seems to me to warrant the conclusion that the Koch, Rajvansi, Paliya, and Desi and other varieties by whatever names they are called are descended from a Dravadian stock, which may probably have occupied the valley of the Ganges at the time of the Aryan advance into Bengal. Driven forward by this incursion into the swamps and forests of Northern and North-eastern Bengal, the tribes were here and there brought into contact with the Mongoloid races of the Lower Himalayas, and of the Assam border, and their type may have been affected to a varying degree by intermixture with these people. But on the whole Dravadian characteristics predominate among them over Mongolian"

Mr. O'Donnell traces them to a Mongoloid source.

Mr. O'Donnell in his Census Report of 1891 has the following :—

"Another interesting tribe is the Rajvansi or Koch of North-eastern Rengal, the localisation of whose racial position has long been a subject of dispute in ethnologic circles. Mr. Risley in his Ethnographic Glossary classes it as Dravadian, whilst Mr. Gait in his recent Report on the Census of Assam arrives at the conclusion that although far from a homogenous tribe it must have derived most of its blood from a mongoloid source. Skull measurement seems to have decided the question in favour of the latter view" After noticing the skull measurement of different tribes, the nasal and the cephalic index, and the facial angles, he summarises the result in these words :—"To summarise the preceding paragraphs, it would seem proved that the peoples of the Lower Provinces of Bengal

may be racially divided into two great stocks—the Negritic or Dravadian, with its nucleus in Chutia Nagpur, extending over the whole of South Bihar, Western Bengal, Orissa, and a large part of North Bihar, and the Mongoloid or Lohitic, which includes Eastern and Northern Bengal, with offshoots into North Bihar, and which was divided probably by the great river Karatoya into two groups of which the southern was conterminous with Banga, or the Barendra Desh, and was peopled by Chandals, whilst the northern, known as Matsya Desh, the Land of the Fish, was the home of the Koch. The Karatoya flowed east of Pabna but south of Dacca, and the Kochmandai still found in the latter district, are probably the remnant of its earliest inhabitants. It is a singular fact that Tibetan traditions place one of the capitals of the Sakyas or Scythians on the banks of the Bhagirathi, a fact that would probably point to a Turanian sovereign resident at Gaur before that ancient capital had become a Hindu metropolis. Its Hindu conquerors changed its name to Lakhnaute, probably in memory of one of their great cities in the plains of Oudh. As remarked in a preceding paragraph the numerous castes seemingly called after this city, such as the Gonrhi and Gonr, are found in the Mongoloid territory. The term Lohitic for these Eastern tribes is scientifically the more accurate. Derived as it is from Lohita, the red one, a title of the Brahmaputra believed by Lassen to have reference to its Eastern source near the rising sun, the name has been applied to the present races of the Assam valley. They are, however, only the third wave of Mongols who have advanced through the eastern passes, the first being the Chandal, the second the Koch, and the last the Aham, whilst the Scythian peoples of Northern India, the Jats or Gujars, probably entered by the western passes before the Aryans of the Euphrates valley were forced by another Turanian incursion to seek homes in Hindustan."[2]

Rajvansis are the same as *Koch*.

It would thus appear that whatever might be the points of difference among the modern authorities on the ethnology of the Indian castes and tribes, it is taken as an established theory by the recent writers that the Rajvansi is the same tribe as the Koch, and that both are a mixed race, although the qustion whether they are Dravadian or Lohitic in origin is not yet beyond the pale of contest. Captain Lewin, a late Deputy Commissioner of Cooch Behar, giving in 1872 apparently as the prevalent impression amongst the immigrant Bengalis, says:—"The present inhabitants, (Rajvansis) of the Cooch Behar State do not belong to any particular race. The Meches who inhabit the Bhutan Duar coming into contact with the immigrants from the south, inter-marriages

[2] Census Report of 1891, Vol III, page 262, para 346.

Opinion of Captain Lewin.

have taken place and their descendants are the modern Cooch Beharis." Who these people from the south are is not mentioned ; at any rate the present Bengali residents of the state do not believe that the Rajvansis are the offsprings of inter-marriages between two aboriginal tribes, such as the Meches on the one side, and the Dravadians of Southern India on the other.

Meaning of the name *Rajvansi*.

The opinion based on the meaning of the term that the Rajvansis are merely the Koch families which are related to their princes such as the Rajas of Cooch Behar, Bijni and Durrang, held by Dr. Buchannan Hamilton and endorsed by some of the subsequent writers, does not seem to be unimpeachable. It is a known fact that the ancestors of the Cooch Behar, and, for the matter of that of Bijni and Durrang families, Chandan and Modan, were the issues of an intermarriage between Koch and Mech tribes. This union took place about 400 years ago, and every member of the Rajvansi class, numbering about 3½ lacs in Cooch Behar alone, can not possibly belong to two families only 12 or 13 generations old. Again, if the name "Rajvansi" be regarded as an addition of honour, as meaning "related to the Royal family" there would be as much right and probability on the side of the Meches for claiming that title as there may be on the other side, namely, the Koches. It is, however, a fact that the Meches do not covet the Rajvansis their tittle, and are not envious of their Hindu practices. It is not therefore probable that the members of the mother's side only would be eager to claim relationship with the line of offsprings, and those of the father's side would remain indifferent, if there were really any distinction to be gained by the adoptation of the name Rajvansi. The term should not therefore be taken in its literal sense. A class of fishermen in Bengal are also called Rajvansis ; but they have not even the remotest tradition of their ever having any thing to do with a "Raja-vansa" or royal family. An inference, based on the significance of the name alone, at least in the present case, is not therefore safe.

No inference from the meaning of the term alone is safe.

Tradition of the people.

Bhanga-khatriya explained.

On the other hand, the tradition [3] of the people that the Rajvansis are Bhanga-Kshatriyas, demands a little more consideration than what has hitherto been accorded to it by the writers on the Ethnology of the tribe. It can not escape the student of the history of old Kamrup, which at one time comprised the whole of Northern

[3] Compare,—

পরশুরাম ভয়াৎক্ষত্রী
সংকোচাৎ কোচউচ্যতে ।

Yogini-tantra.

Also Risley,—

Now the great majority of the Koch inhabitants of Northern Bengal invariably describe themselves as Rajvansis or Bhanga-Kshatriyas who fled to these remote districts in order to escape from the wrath of Parasu-Rama. —Tribes and Castes of Bengal, Vol I.

Bengal and Assam, how there was intercourse with the Aryan conquerors of Western India with the people of Kamrup in very old times, often resulting in inter-marriage. Now if princes and nobles could take Kamrupi girls there could not possibly be any objection on the part of their followers and attendants to enter into similar connections. Again, whatever may be the significance of the legend, it is now matter of history that on the rising of Parasu-Rama the Brahman warrior, the Kshatriyas fared very ill, and many of them fled to distant parts of the country to escape annihilation. The fastnesses and swamps of Northern and North-eastern Bengal, or of old Kamrup, would be the best place of refuge they could seek, and thus come into contact with the native tribes, and by their forced stay be led to intermarry with them. It is perfectly possible that in this way a race has gradually sprung up from Hindu and Aryan fathers, and Kamrupi mothers, and *vice versa*. That race may, for all that is known, have gradually come to be known as Rajvansis, who now claim the title of Bhanga-Kshatriya, which means, fallen or degenerate Kshatriya. After all, admitting the Rajvansis to be a mixed race, it is more probable that there is an Aryan element in the compound than that both the factors are aboriginal, or non-Aryan.

Rajvansis have probably Aryan blood in them

The Rajvansis, however, are not regarded as pure Hindus. Formerly the Hindus of Lower Bengal residing in the country did not drink water touched by a Rajvansi. This disability has to a great extent disappeared, and many Hindus do not now object to use such water. Still there are many who consider the Rajvansi even of the present day impure. A Rajvansi can not certainly pass for a pure Hindu in Bengal. His position will be below the Navasaks, such as, Kamar, Kumar, Goala &c., and above the next lower order, Teli, Mali and so forth. The use of pork and the countenance of a form of widow marriage, which are the most objectionable practices from a Hindu point of view, are fast disappearing from their midst, and it will be no wonder if the Rajvansis rise in the scale of society still higher a few decades hence.

Their status among Hindus.

SECTION IV.

Khens, Kurisarjans and Morangias.

The next caste peculiar to Cooch Behar and its nighbourhood are called *Khens*, who are 4,755 in number, and in social status closely approach the Navasakas of Bengal. The origin of this tribe is not likewise free from obscurity. Tradition has it that the line of kings who preceeded the present ruling family belonged to this tribe. It is alleged that the Khens were originally low caste Hindus, and that the influence of Raja Kanteswar over the Brahmans

Traditions regarding origin of the Khens.

Not probable

led them to sanctify his caste and raise it to the level of "pure" Hindus. This seems to be at best an aspersion on these people by some envious neighbour. Maharaja Naranarayan, the third king of the present line, was a most powerful king and was not less pious or less devoted to the Brahmans than his predecessor Kanteswar. In many respects he was decidedly the superior of his Khen predecessor. If then it was possible for the latter to have his caste sanctified by the Brahmans, there is no reason why the former should not have done the same, but preferred to remain an "impure" Hindu.

Probably related to *Kalitas* of Assam.

There is another tradition to the effect that the Khens are a branch of the Kalitas of Assam. For all that is known this is a most probable explanation of the origin of this caste. Colonel Dalton describes them as a good looking race with "oval faces, well-shaped heads, high noses, large eyes, well-developed eyelids,

Their features

and eye-lashes and the light supple frame of the pure Hindu." In fact they possess features more Aryan than aboriginal, and are decidedly superior to the Rajvansi in habits and pursuits.

"They are of the ordinary Brahmanical type, with slight modifications such as might easily arise from maladroit borrowing. A Khen may not marry a girl belongnig to his own section, nor may he marry within the usual formula of prohibited degrees reckoned to the seventh generation in the descending line. Girls are married as infants at ages varying from five to thirteen. The marriage ceremony is of the standard Brahmanical type, the gift of the bride to the bridegroom and his acceptance of her being reckoned the essential and binding portion. Widows are not allowed to marry again, nor is divorce permitted.

Their social status above the Rajvansis

"As to their religion, the Khens are orthodox Hindus. Most of them belong to the Sakta sect, but Vaishnavas are also found among them. They employ Brahmans as priests, who are received on terms of equality by other members of the sacred order. Their social rank is respectable, and Brahmans, Kayasthas and Baidyas take water, fruit, and sweet-meats from their hands"[4]

Different sections of Khens.

There are five sections of the Khens in this country. These are *Mahendri*, *Teli*, *Baroi*, *Salooya*, and *Patiyar*. The Mahendri sect ranks above the rest. *Teli*, *Baroi* and *Patiyar*,[5] are names derived from the professions followed by the people of those sects. No profession is, however, now exclusively confined to any particular sect. All the Khens are cultivators and traders as well.

Kurisarjans.

Besides the Khens and Rajvansis, there is a tribe of Hindus peculiar to this country who go by the name of Kurisarjan. Their

[4] Risley's Tribes and Castes of Bengal, Vol. I, page 489.

[5] "Teli" means oilman, "Baroi," betel-grower, and "Patiyar," *pati* or mat-maker.



Photo Boas.

A GROUP OF MORANGIAS *Page 129.*

number is, however, small, some of their tribe being found only in Dinhata and Mekhliganj. The tribesmen themselves try to pass for *Kuris*, who are a pure functional sub-caste of Bengal. The tradition, however, is that these people are a section of the Meches, and are connected with the mothers side of the present royal family. It is said that *Kudi* or twenty families of Meches connected with the maternal side of Maharaja Biswa Sing were raised to the status of pure Hindus, and a place was assigned to them for their residence which was called, after them, *Kuri-gram*, at present a sub-division of the District of Rangpur, bordering on the territory of Cooch Behar. Probably of Mech extraction

The following endorsement occurs in Mr. Risley's "Tribes and Castes of Bengal":—"Kurisarjan a sub-division of Meches also called Mechkuri who sell oil." The popular tradition as noticed above supports this view.

The manners and customs of the Kurisarjan very closely resemble those of the Rajvansi. Long residence in the same country with no particular fixed rules of either to keep the tribes apart from each other is probably responsible for this similarity in the social conditions of these two tribes. Kurisarjans must therefore be counted among the old inhabitants of the country.

These people have their preceptors among the Adhikaris; some have Brahmans for their spiritual guide. Generally the *Vaidic* Brahmans officiate at their social ceremonies. The foreign Hindus consider the Kurisarjan more pure than the Rajvansi, probably from a misconception of their origin. A rigid Hindu of Lower Bengal may have no objection to drink water touched by them. Their social status

Another people, not perhaps found outside Cooch Behar, are the *Morangias*. Their number was ascertained at the Census of 1891 to be 2,380. Marangias

It cannot be definitely ascertained if the word "Morangia" indicates *caste* or *locality*. It is, however, a fact that the "Morangias" came from the country of "Marung," which is shewn in Major Rennell's map of 1779 as stretching westward from the west of Patrish-hajari in the modern District of Jalpaiguri, along the north of Purniah and Tirhoot. It thus corresponds with the eastern portion of the "Tarai" or the low country lying on the southern slope of the hills of Nepal. No inference can, however, be drawn from this fact alone, one way or the other. For if it is a fact that a people often derives its name from the country it inhabits, it is no less true that the land also often comes to be called after the people who settle in it. The names "Cooch Behar" and "Assam" are very apt illustrations of the latter process. The Came from the country of *Morung*, in Nepal.

Morangias have no definite idea of the caste to which they belong beyond what their name implies. Twelve persons of this caste were presented as slaves by the Raja of Morung to Maharaja Naranarayan on the occasion of a marriage. They settled in Cooch Behar towards the middle of the sixteenth century, and by long residence here have gradually come to adopt to in great extent the manners and customs of their neighbours, the Rajvansis.

Tradition regarding their caste.

There is a tradition among them to the effect that previous to their coming here they had, like the Brahmans and Kshatriyas, the sacred thread, which they subsequently lost by their contact with the Rajvansis. This makes it probable that they are allied to the Kshatriyas, or more properly Chhatris, as the common people of the North-West Provinces are generally known. The physiognomy, and the primitive occupation of this people, so far as they are known, do not make such a supposition altogether improbable.

Their features, and primitive occupation

The Morangias are well built and strong, with prominent nose, open eyes, and broad forehead, very different from the ordinary flat-nosed and round-eyed native of Cooch Behar. When the Morangias settled in this country they did not know the use of the plough, and made use of the spade in agricultural operations. The Taluk where they first raised crops is still called after this fact *Kodal-ksheti*, meaning, *the place where fields are prepared with the spade*. When they came here they were granted *Jaigir* or service lands and were employed chiefly as guards of the *Ander* or inner apartment of the Palace. They were also employed in building thatched houses.

They are Hindus.

These people are Hindus in religion and do not eat food cooked by any other caste, not even by the Brahmans. They observe mourning for their dead for 10 days, and perform the Sradh on the eleventh day. After a birth in the family the *ashauch* or unclean period lasts for 5 days. They observe the full period of *ashauch* up to the seventh generation.

No widow marriage.

In their marriage they avoid the prohibited degrees like the high caste Hindus. There is no widow marriage among them.

CHAPTER III.

MANNERS AND CUSTOMS OF THE PEOPLE.

SECTION I.

The sexes in the domestic economy.

People are late risers.

The people of Cooch Behar are rather late risers especially in winter, and go to their business generally by 8 A.M. In winter after leaving the bed some time is spent inside the house in smoking round a fire and then coming out and basking in the sun until it is fairly warm. The men then partake of a light refreshment in the shape of some *cheera* or *goora*, and afterwards go out to their morning work. The women, however, bestir themselves very early, and attend to their household duties before the sun is fairly up.

Daily routine of a household.

The daily routine of a native household may be briefly stated thus :—The women get up early, cleanse the utensils left unwashed over night, husk paddy for the daily consumption or prepare *cheera*, feed the children, and clear the houses, the courtyard, and the cowshed. By this time it is about 10 or 11 o'clock, and the men have already gone out to the field. The young women now go to take their bath and prepare the morning meal, while the matrons are out either assisting the men in the field, or gathering fuel in the bamboo topes or brush-wood jungles. An hour or two later the men return from the field, and by 2 o'clock in the afternoon the first meal is over. The whole household have now rest for a couple of hours or so.

Occupation in the afternoon.

The men generally spend the afternoon in gossip. They go to the Hat when it is the Hat day, and are followed by the elderly women. In the weeding and harvest time men also work in the field after the morning meal. In the meantime young women may again be preparing rice for the evening meal. Fuel is cut and water for the night fetched. The evening meal is cooked shortly after dusk. The huts are very seldom lighted, the fire of the oven supplying all the light many a house often gets.

Occupation of men.

The men are generally indolent and avoid taking much pains. The women on the other hand are always up and doing, and perform by far the largest share of the household duties. The men attend to the construction and repairing of the house, paying the rent, and raising the crops. In this last work they are assisted by the women in weeding and transplanting, and also in cutting and thrashing of the crops. Then, the women arrange the house, husk paddy, gather and cut fuel, fetch water, prepare the meals, sometimes

Of women.

weave the cloth, do the marketting, wash the clothes, nurse the children, and attend upon the sick and invalid, not forgetting all the while the last but not least important function of women generally, namely, gossipping and quarrelling, and speaking ill of the neighbour's good things.

Women more intelligent than men

The women are generally more intelligent and better informed in all matters than the men. At the sight of a new-comer or at an unusual occurrence the males seek the innermost recesses of the house, and all calls are often responded to by the females. The men come out when the women declare it to be all right outside.

Condition of women.

The women have almost full liberty both within and without the house. In a fair or market-place the sellers are mostly composed of women, and when a sight is to be seen the females rush out of the house and crowd the street or public place along with the men. They go unveiled among the Rajvansis, the Mahomedan women having a portion of the wearing cloth drawn over the head without concealing the features. The women, although not positively respected, are not ill-treated. They possess an authority in the household which is inseparable from their usefulness.

SECTION II.

Dwelling and Furniture.

Arrangement of a house.

The people live in thatched huts with mat or grass walls and earthen floor. The huts are raised on bamboo posts. A house-holder ordinarily gets four huts arranged around a quadrangle, entrance into which is effected by one of the openings between every two huts, the remaining three being fully or partially closed by *tátis*, or walls of bamboo or *kásiá* grass. Two of the huts are used as sleeping rooms, another as the cook-room and the fourth as the shed for cattle, some of which is possessed by almost every house-holder. One of the sleeping rooms has got, on one side of it, a *máchán* or bamboo plat-form, raised two or three feet from the floor, enclosed on all sides by walls, leaving a small opening within the hut. Here grain is stored.

There is only one door to the hut. This is closed from within by a single mat-door, which turns upon a straight bamboo fitted into a bamboo socket, which, in its turn, is driven into the ground. There is generally no other opening in the hut, and no window.

The well-to-do men have houses of better quality, erected on sal posts, and furnished with wooden doors.

Outer house

In addition to the houses in the quadrangle, they have separate huts for the cattle and one or two *thákur-ghars*, or houses for worshipping the gods, arranged around a different courtyard.



A TYPICAL COOCH BEHAR HOMESTEAD *Page 132.*

They have separate *golás*, or houses for storing grains. The inner quadrangle is called the *vitar-chátál*, and the outer, the *báhir-chátál*. A *dári-ghar* is an inseparable adjunct to the house of a substantial farmer. It is erected outside the quadrangle, is sufficiently spacious, and has two door-ways one opposite the other, through the middle of the house. It is the farmer's *baithakkhánd* or drawing room, where he sits with his friends, conducts his business, receives his guests, stores his jute or tobacco, and where the servants and new-comers sleep in the night. *Dari ghar*

All these groups of houses, and sometimes only the inner appartment, are enclosed with a *chekár* or light fencing of split bamboos interlaid with each other, and 6 or 7 feet high, which shuts out view from the outside, and at the same time acts as a strong barrier against thieves and wild animals. Surrounding bamboo wall or *chekar*

Rich men who can afford have now begun to make houses of brick or corrugated iron, both in the town and muffasil. House of the rich.

The *prajás* or farm-servants live on the home-stead of their *grihis* or masters, and have separate huts of their own. They are generally poor men, and sometimes as many as four families live around a courtyard, one and the same hut being often used for both cooking and sleeping. Dwelling of the *Prajas*.

The poor men have little furniture. They sleep on the floor, or on bamboo *máchán* or platform. A brass *loti* and one or two *thálás* or plates are often all the utensils they possess. Food is cooked in *hándis* or earthen pots. Water is carried in *bosh* or dried gourd-shell. Earthen *gharé* or jug is now gradually superseding the primitive *bosh*, which by the way has the reputation of keeping the water cool. Some baskets of bamboo work, a *done* or measure, a *dala*, a *koola*, and a *khalai* or fish basket, make up a considerable portion of an ordinary house-holder's articles of use. The *urun* and *gain*, pestle and mortar of wood, used for husking paddy, are possessed by almost every house-holder. Another house-hold furniture of importance is the *pira*, which is a piece of wood about 4 feet long and 2 feet broad flattened at the top, and hewn out of an entire log so as to have four toes. This serves as a stool for the men, and washing plank for the women. Better classes have got regular stools, *moras*, and even chairs. They have also got *taktaposhes* for bed-stead in the *dári-ghar*. Furniture, simple and limited in variety

The beddings of the poor consist of a bamboo or grass mat, a pillow, and a *kantha*. The well-to-do people have got quilts, mattresses, mosquito nets, and bedsheets.

The wardrobe of the masses, as can be expected, is scanty, and requires no box or other receptacle for its accommodation. Men

who are well off have, however, got boxes and wooden chests, one of which can always be seen in the *dari-ghar*, and generally goes by the name of *khata*.

SECTION. III.

Clothing and Ornaments.

Dress of men

The people are very scantily dressed at home. The wearing of the males of the poorer classes consists of a *lengti*, a piece of cloth about a foot and a half in breadth and three in length, passed between the legs and attached at two ends to a cord passing round the waist which is called *sika*. This custom of wearing a cord is not confined to the males but extends to the females also, and is not peculiar to this country. It is in vogue all over Bengal amongst all classes and communities. Lately some improvement has been made in the *lengti*, and a short cloth in the form of a *dhuti*, coming scarcely below the thigh, has been largely substituted for it. The *lengti* as costing very little may have its origin in the wants of the people; but the people accustomed to it like exposure so much that they actually feel uncomfortable in a bigger or fuller raiment. When going out this *lengti* is dispensed with for a *dhuti*, which is a cotton cloth from 8 to 12 feet in length, and 2 to 3½ in breadth. These have narrow coloured borders lengthwise when worn by boys or youths. The old men use plain *dhuties* without borders. A *chaddar*, or a similar cotton cloth but shorter than a *dhuti* and of a thinner texture, is thrown over the shoulders, or wrapped round the upper part of the body. Like the Bengalis the people go with their heads uncovered.

Winter clothing.

In winter when more covering is wanted the people wear, both indoor and out of doors, a thick cloth hanging from the neck and coming down to the knee wrapped around the body. This used to be formerly home-spun, but is now purchased ready made from the bazar. An *Endi Gilap*, or a *chaddar* prepared from *Endi* silk at home, of a very coarse texture, is very largely in use as a winter clothing.

Well-to-do persons and those that can afford to buy have now dispensed with the *lengti*. They use full *dhutis* and largely have recourse to foreign clothes. When going out they are fully dressed, the use of shirt, coat, socks and of all sorts of cheap but gaudy foreign articles of wearing being by no means uncommon now a days.

Shoes and umbrellas.

Kharam or wooden sandal is universally used by men, and also by women chiefly among the Mahomedans. Shoes have been largely introduced, the slipper being in common use among

the old men. A man who can pay for it must have among other outfit a pair of shoes for his boy, if not one for himself. Umbrellas are very commonly used, and have in a manner displaced the old bamboo sunshade, which is now in demand only for accompanying the dead and adorning the burning ground of adult males. The *toka*, or the cultivator's small sunshade of bamboo is, however, still in use.

Clothing of women fuller and more decent.

Both at home and abroad the women are better dressed. When at home, and for ordinary wear, they use a piece of cotton cloth called *patani* about 5 feet in length, which is wrapped round the body and tucked up above the breast so as to reach the knee. Among themselves and when employed on indoor work, this cloth is generally worn round the waist, the bust remaining uncovered. Young girls do not use the single *patani*, but have a small piece of cloth about a foot and a half in breadth, with which they cover their breast, while the *patani* is worn round the waist. When going out two pieces of cloth as large as the *patani* are worn, one round the waist and the other round the breast. This latter is called *agran*. Girls and young women wear *chaddars* wrapped cross-wise round the bust. The holiday and festive attire of the females, especially of young women, is very gaudy. Clothes coloured generally red and yellow, are put on, different colours being chosen for the *patani* and the *agran*. The Rajvansi women go without a veil, or any sort of covering for the head.

Holiday attire.

Mahomedan women use *saris*.

The Mahomedan women generally use *saris* like the Bengalis, and cover their head with a part of the same. The *chaddars* are worn in the Bengali fashion. The use of bodices and vests has been introduced among them.

Hair not plaited.

The hair is combed and kept tied in a loose knot behind the head; it is never plaited. It is considered indecorous to plait the hair.

Use of vermilion.

The married women use vermilion above the forehead at the parting of the hair. They also wear shell bracelets called *sankha* generally on the left wrist. Those who can afford have also silver *churis*. *Mutha*, a kind of silver bracelet, is of common use. Other popular ornaments are silver or gold *mala*, or necklace, and silver *hashli* for the neck, *anti* or gold ear ring, *nat* or nose ring of gold, and silver *nakful* for the nose, and *bank-kharu* for the ankle-joint. Rings both of gold and silver are also worn in the globe of the ear.

Ornaments.

The children of well-to-do parents are adorned with silver and gold ornaments, a necklace of small silver coins being much in favour with the mass.

SECTION IV.

Food and Drink.

People are good eaters

The Rajvansi is a good eater. He has, however, got a very elastic stomach, and when in difficulty can endure hunger with wonderful patience and can subsist upon almost nothing. His ordinary meal consits of *bhat* or boiled rice and *sak* or boiled leaf-vegetables. He is exceedingly fond of fish and eats it both fresh and dried. Dried fish is used mostly during the rains when fresh fish is not caught in large numbers. *Pani-machh* or tortoise is considered a delicacy. Flesh of he-goat is used, but not so frequently as that of the pigeon. The use of pork was common till of late ; but this practice has now been mostly given up, although it has not wholly died out. Ducks and wild rabbits are relished. Flesh of deer and rhinoceros is considered sacred here as in Bengal, and is eaten roasted. A common Rajvansi does not know what a good curry means. Condiments, except green chillies, are very seldom used, and *sil* and *nora* or the curry-stone and pestle are conspicuous by their absence from the native household. When receiving a foreigner and in urgent and special cases, the pestle and mortar are brought into use, and condiments are very roughly crushed which no Bengali will ever think of using.

Ordinary food

Shidal

Shidal is a sort of favourite food. It is made of dried small fish pounded with the green stems of *kachu* plants into a paste, which is then rounded into small balls. These are afterwards dried in the sun, and stored in a *handi* or earthen pot covered with ashes. These balls are at times taken out, crushed into powder, and cooked with vegetables, commonly with young green leaves of the jute plant. The preparation is salted with *chhaka*[6]. When finished the whole is a gelatinous mass going by the name of *pelka*, and is eaten with rice. Onion and garlic are universally used. The green chilly is much liked.

Sweetmeats.

Of the country-made sweets *batasha* and *mola* are the chief and are most commonly in use. *Batasha* is a preparation of sugar or molasses. *Mola* is prepared by mixing *moori*, *chira*, *til* &c., with boiled molasses, and then making the compound into balls, or flattening it into circles and other shapes. *Mola* is a delicacy with the children of this country as it is with the children of Lower Bengal. It is largely used here in offering *loots* or presents in honour of god Hari when a Sankirtan is performed. Barley or wheat powder is used in a peculiar way. It is never

[6] *chhaka* is obtained by distilling water through ashes of plantain leaves. It is of a reddish colour, and very pungent in taste. Formerly, it performed the function of salt in every household of Cooch Behar. It has not yet fallen into disuse altogether. There are still many people who prefer it to salt, at least in some particular dishes.

cooked or made into *chapati*. The grains are fried and then crushed into small lumps, and are technically known as *goora*. The *goora* is also prepared from rice, *kaon*, and other food-grains in a similar way. *Goora.*

Generally two meals are taken: one at about mid-day, and the other shortly after nightfall. In the morning *chira* or *goora* is generally eaten. People take two meals.

At harvest time, when food is to be had in plenty, there is no end of meals. In times of dearness and scarcity the case is the reverse, and one meal in 24 hours is considered quite enough.

Sweet milk is used among the masses by the children. The adults prefer sour or curded milk called *dahi*. *Dahi* and *chira* with a little salt and a couple of green chillies is a favourite food, and is often preferred to rice.

During feasts large quantities of *dal* and fish and a sour curry are consumed, *dahi* or curd being an indispensable item of the menu. Dishes at a feast.

The well-to-do classes are now imitating the meals of the Bengalis.

As a class the Rajvansis do not drink intoxicating liquors, although the habit of drinking is gradually gaining ground mostly among the towns-people. No habit of drinking.

Smoking the *hookka* or the *chhilum* is universal. The men take to it from their infancy, and even the women are not free from it. Tobacco is smoked mostly in *alwa* or dried state, not moistened and mixed with molasses. It is also chewed with pan or betel-leaf in a raw state. The use of *ganja* is rather large. Opium-eating is also of no uncommon occurrence. Smoking.

The use of betel and nut is extensive, especially among the women. Dried nuts are very seldom used, and are not much liked. Green nuts and, more commonly, *maja* or preserved nuts, are preferred. The nut is divided into four pieces length-wise with a small *katari* or knife, and each is taken with one or two betel-leaves added to a bit of lime, and the whole is then chewed. *Gach-pan* or leaves of the betel creeper growing on the tree, as opposed to *barui-pan* or betel leaves grown by the Baruis in regular nursuries, is commonly used. In fact the preserved nut suits the *gach-pan* better than the *barui-pan*. When going out a man carries his *batooya* or small cloth bag, which among other things is sure to contain a *chhilum*, some tobacco leaves, some nuts and Use of betel and nut is universal.

betel-leaves, and, now a days, a match-box also. The woman under like circumstances has her small bundle tied in one end of her wearing cloth, containing betel-nuts and betel-leaves, while a *katari* is carried in her hand.

SECTION V.

Amusement and Recreation.

Games mostly passive.

The people have not many games, and much less manly and out-door sports. Of the out-door games *Footi-Chila*, *Nab* and *Kana-kani* are the chief.

In-door games.

Among the in-door games the following, partaking of the nature of the chess play, may be mentioned—

Charpoti, *Shatgharer-Pokta*, *Khalghak*, *Mogal-Pathan* or *Sola-paita*, *Chakar-Chal*, *Bagh-baghini*, and *Te-paita.*

The people prefer passive to active recreation. Sight-seeing, attending fairs, and quiet gossipping are thus much liked.

Music not in an advanced state.

Music is in a very elementary stage. The number of musical instruments is very small. The number of different tunes also seems to be limited. However, the people are now largely imitating the mode of singing in vogue in Lower Bengal, and are also gradually learning the use of improved and new musical instruments.

Musical instrument.

The musical instruments of the people are chiefly the following :—*Bena*, *Dotara*, *Khol*, and *Karatal* or cymbals.

Musical parties.

There are native singing parties called parties of *Kovsan* and *Bishahari*. The party consists of 15 to 20 persons young and adult. The subject of singing is a mythological piece. The party go round and round as they sing, amidst much jesticulations and fantastic movements of the *mool-gidal* or head-singer. The *bairagi* or clown, with a conical red cap and a necklace of wooden beads often as big as green nuts, is the most prominent figure in the whole party. Some boys are invariably attired as girls, who keep up a ceaseless dancing to the music of *bena* and *khol* and occasionally draw a high shrilling tune to the singing of the head man. This music is immensely enjoyed by the people.

Holiday-making in connection with religious ceremonies is universally observed by men and women, both young and old. Work is suspended and every body puts on his best attire, and gives himself up to merry-making for the whole time the festival lasts.

Hari-sankirtan.

Singing the *Sankirtan* in the evening in large parties with *Khols* and *Karatals* is frequently done. It is more a religious ceremony than a lay popular amusement.

SECTION VI.

Religion.

The religion of the Rajvansis and most other Hindus of the country is a form of low Hinduism similar to what is observed by the Nabasaks of Bengal, with an admixture of some aboriginal rites. The Hindu gods and goddesses, such as *Hari*, *Siva*, *Durga*, *Kali*, *Manasa*, *Lakshmi*, and so forth, are honoured and worshipped. The worship of *Balaram* and *Bishahari* is very popular, and almost every substantial farmer has got *mantaps* or huts in his house where *pujas* are offered to these deities. Perhaps the weapon of the former, namely, the plough, has some bearing on his worship by this agricultural people; but it is not clear why the worship of *Bishahari*, the goddess of snake, is so popular in a country where the poisonous snakes are but rare, and instances of death from snake-bite are not very common.

Low form of Hinduism.

Bishahari and *Balarama*.

Bura Thakur and Bura Thakurani, *Dangdhara*, *Suvachani*, *Madan-kam*, and the like, are deities peculiar to this people. Wild animals, such as tigers and crocodiles, are worshipped in places. Every year, on the fourteenth day of the moon, in the month of Chaitra (February—March), the Rajvansis worship *Madan-kam*, the god of love. Large, straight bamboos, decorated with coloured cloth in alternate rings of red and white, and surmounted by *chamars* (yak's tails) are erected in the court-yard; *pujas* are offered to these, and great rejoicings prevail. Very loose songs formerly used to be sung on this occasion; this practice has been prohibited. The worship is continued for three days; on the fourth day the cloths are taken off the bamboos which are then immersed in water and thrown away.

Deities peculiar to the people.

Madan-kam.

Besides the regular, periodical *pujas* are offered in different times of the year. Special occasions, such as the marriage of children, *churakaran* or tonsure, adoption in the family, and *annaprasan* or first-rice, are invariably ushered in by the worship and propitiation of gods, particularly of *Bishahari* and *Balaram*.

Pujas on special occasions.

Every householder, who has the means, has places of worship in his own house. Besides, every village has its *Thakurpat* or *dham*, the seat of gods, which is a place of worship for the whole community. The place is invariably under a Bur or Pipal tree, where a number of tiny huts are erected, each of which is dedicated to a particular god. *Pujas* and sacrifices are offered here by the whole village together once a year.

Thakur-pat.

The worship of *gramya deratas*, or rural deities, under various names, is in vogue in this country as in Bengal.

Gramya-devatas.

Bratas performed by women.

The Hindu women take vows and perform *bratas*, just as their sisters of Lower Bengal do. These ceremonies are followed up by the narration of *brata-kathas*, or stories illustrative of the efficacy of the vows.

Two main sects,—*Saktas* and *Vaishnavas*.

There are two main sects among the Hindus,—the *Vaishnavas* and the *Saktas*. The former do not eat meat and offer none to their gods. Among the *Vaishnavas* there are two defined sects, known as *Sankara-panthis* and *Damodara-panthis*, who are the followers of Sankara and Damodara, respectively. A short account of these *Baishnava* preachers has already appeared.[7] Sankara, who was a Kayastha, advocated *nama-gan*, or singing of the holy name of god *Hari*, discussion of holy topics, and the devout reading of the *Bhagavata*. His disciples are the *bhakats* who live in *dhams*, and observe lifelong celibacy. Damodara was a Brahman and preached the refined worship of *Bishnu*. His representatives are called *medhis*, who are Brahmans by caste.

Sankara-panthis and *Damodara panthis*.

Adhikaris.

Besides the undefined class of *Baishnavas*, commonly known as *Bairagis*, there is a priest-hood the members of which are called *adhikaris* These *adhikaris* seem to be the representatives of the Kolitas of Assam, and, though themselves Rajvansis, have their disciples among that class. They officiate at the offering of *nabid* or *naibidya*, (that which is dedicated), consisting of *atap* or sun-dried rice, plantain and milk, to the gods and ancestors. The Brahmans, although called in to perform the *pujas* and officiate in marriages &c., find no place in the performance of the *nabid*-giving ceremony.

Among the *Saktas* the Assam Brahmans monopolise the priest-hood of the country. Their services are necessary at the marriage, adoption, and other ceremonies.

Siva worship.

The worship of god *Siva* is very popular. There are temples of *Siva* all over the country, all maintained by the State ; here the people offer *pujas* and presents all round the year. The congregation becomes large on the *Siva-ratri*, when people come from distant places to these temples, especially, to the one at Baneswar.

Bhawriyas.

Chiefly among the *Saktas* a sort of priest-hood prevails, the members of which are called *bhawriyas*. They are, however, more of sooth-sayers than priests, and are generally consulted for warding off diseases or other calamities, and are called in to officiate at the invoking of gods for obtaining oracles in obstinate cases of disease. They repair to a *pat* and take to *bhawar* or the shaking of the head amidst the sounding of *dhak*, until some *bakya dan* or oracle is had from the offending god, declaring the

Bhawar described.

7 *Vide, ante* page 97.

nature of the disease and suggesting remedies. It is needless to add that the remedy thus brought to light by superhuman interposition is sure to consist of a *puja* with a reward to the *bhaeriya*, who is also otherwise remunerated for his services.

Worship of *Hudumdeo*.

There are other ways of invoking the assistance of gods in times of public calamities. When there is a very bad want of rain and the crops are suffering from drought, the worship of *Hudumdeo* is performed. The women of the village assemble together in some distant and solitary place, no male being allowed to be present at the rite which is always performed at night. A plantain tree or young bamboo is stuck into the ground, and the women, throwing off their garments, dance round the mystic tree singing old songs and charms. The practice is, however, gradually becoming obsolete.

When cholera or small-pox prevails, the women go about from place to place begging for alms. The dole thus obtained is expended in making offerings to the *deos* or evil spirits through whose malign influence the disease is supposed to be brought on.

Kach procession.

Procession of men often go about with a *kach* or female figure wearing a hideous mask, and having a sword in her hand. The *dhak* or drum is sounded, and a man with a sword and shield enacts a mock-fight with the *kach*, indicating the defeat of the demon of the epidemic.

Religion of the Mahomedans.

The Musalmans are mostly of the *Shia* sect; they offer presents to *Pirs* and have *Dargas*. They observe the Maharam festival and go out in procession with the *tazia*. There are Ferajis or Wahabis also who refrain from the observance of rites and festivals and have no music on social ceremonies. They content themselves with simply doing the *Nomaj* or prayer in the *Joomba ghar* or Musjid.

SECTION VII.

Domestic Ceremonies.

The important ceremonies performed by a Rajvansi

The Rajvansis as followers of Hinduism perform almost all the ceremonies enjoined by custom or the *shastras* for the low-class Hindus. These are principally the ceremonies at birth, *annaprasana* or first-rice, *chura-karana* or tonsure, *diksha* or initiation, marriage, and funeral. They are briefly noticed below :—

No separate lying-in room.

BIRTH.—The Rajvansi builds no new or separate house for the lying-in room, as is the custom with the Hindus ; any house on the premises serves the purpose, although it is considered unclean, and has to be cleansed and purified after the *ashauch*. After the birth the navel-cord is cut by the mother herself, or an elderly woman, with the usual *nil* or a thin and sharp slip of bamboo, and this latter is always regarded by the child in after life as a second mother, and is called his *nari kata mao*. The *ashauch* or unclean period is observed by the mother for 30 days after the birth of the child, the first eight of which are regarded as more unclean than the rest. On the ninth day the barber cuts the nails of both the mother and child ; this is called *ek-kaman*, or the first shaving. On the thirtieth day is held the *do-kaman* or the second shaving, when, over and above the paring of nails, the head of the child is usually shaved, and *shanti-jal* or water consecrated by the priest is sprinkled over them, as well as on the hut and all articles used by them. In this, however, the Rajvansi merely follows the ways of the Hindus of Bengal.

Nari kata mao

Ashouch observed till the thirtieth day.

Annaprasana takes places ordinarily in the sixth month.

ANNAPRASANA OR FIRST-RICE.—On the one hundred and eightieth day of the birth the *annaprasana* or first-rice ceremony, called by the people *bhat-chhoyani* (causing the rice to be touched), is performed. The exact time is not, however, always strictly observed, and the ceremony is sometimes performed earlier or later. It is also at this time that the child is named. The Brahmans officiate at these ceremonies. The poorer classes simply make an offering of *naibidya*, made up of *atap* rice and plantain, to the deities, and a grain from the same is touched to the lips of the child. The *naibidya* is offered by the *adhikaries*, who are of the Rajvansi caste. The regular *annaprasana* ceremony is performed very much in the same way as is in vogue among the Hindus of Bengal, and is preceded by the worship of gods, and performance of the *abhyudika shraddha* of the forefathers. The first mouthful of rice is generally given to the child by the grand-father, grand-mother, or the maternal uncle.

The name of the child is selected in the Hindu fashion from the names of gods and goddesses, sacred rivers and places, and the like. Among the lower classes of the people, however, the child is not unfrequently named after the day or the month when it is born, or other circumstances attending the birth; such as, the age of the moon, character of the night, time of the day, character of the season &c. A few samples of these names are given below :— How the name is selected.

Names derived from the,—

Days of the week.—*Ravi-ram; Somaru; mangulu*; *Budha; Bishadu; Sukaru;* and *Sania.*

Months of the year.—*Baisakhu; Jatia; Asharu; Saona; Bhadai; Aswina; Kartik; Agna; Pushu; Magna; Faguna; Chaita.*

Age of the moon.—*Panchami; Ekadashi.*

Character of the night.—*Jonaku; Andharu.*

Time of the day.—*Poyatu*; *Dupuria; Sanjua.*

Character of the season.—*Shitbar; Ban-bhasa* or *Ban-barish.*

In fact the name is chosen from all conceivable sources—from the animal kingdom down to the commonest article of household furniture,—such as, *Chika* (mole); *Saleya* (mouse); *Kaua* (crow); *Shial* (jackal); *Kukur* (dog); *Beng* (frog); *Briksha* (tree); *Chengtia* (a fish); *Khalai* (fish-basket); *Daru* (fishing-engine); *Batal* (chisel); and the like.

CHURA-KARANA OR TONSURE.—It consists in the shaving of the head of the child, and perforating the lobe of the ear with a needle or thorn, the quill of the porcupine being sometimes used for this purpose. Both these functions are performed by the barber. The ceremony takes place in the 6th, 12th or 18th month of the birth of the child, and is scrupulously observed by Hindus of every rank and creed.

The child is shaved outside the house, within a circle made with small pith figures of horses, and miniature flags; a *charka* or spinning machine is also placed on the gronnd. The first growth of hair is supposed to be due to a deity called Buri Thakurani. The hair thus shaved is generally removed to the shrine of this goddess; in some cases it is buried, or left on the spot where the child was shaved. The *adhikari* officiates at this ceremony, and offers the *naibidya.* Details of the ceremony.

DIKSHA OR INITIATION.—Every man or woman is twice religiously instructed in his or her life; but there is no fixed time in which the instructions are to be received. In early youth, the *adhikari* whispers in the ear of the child the name of god Hari. At a more advanced age, he whispers the *guru mantra* in the ear Ceremony described.

of his desciple, who makes some present in return, and thenceforth considers the instructor as the spiritual father or preceptor. The desciple is required to utter this *mantra* every day after bathing, and also before taking his meal. The *diksha* ceremony is only a formal profession of faith or entry into Hinduism.

Three forms of marriage.

MARRIAGE.—Three kinds of marriage are in vogue among the Rajvansis, namely, *Gandharva*-Marriage, *Brahma*-Marriage, and Widow-Marriage, although the law of the country does not sanction any but the second form of wedlock.

Gandharva-Marriage.—This is not to be confounded with the form of marriage sanctioned by the Hindu *shastras*, in which the bride selects her own husband. Among the Rajvansis this marriage takes place when the girl is between four and twelve years of age, and the bride is selected by the would-be husband or his friends. The only ceremony performed on the occasion is this:—The girl is placed by young married women before a *chalun-bati* (a seive of bamboo containing, among other things, five lights, a bunch of plantain fruits, some grains of paddy, and a few ends of the *durba* grass), and is presented with a new cloth and *sankha* or shell bracelets. Garlands of flowers are also exchanged between the bride and the bride-groom. No religious ceremony is performed, and the services of the priest are not required. This form of marriage was formerly in vogue in the royal family and among the higher order of the people, and was very seldom, if ever, resorted to by the lower classes. The custom has almost died out now. It also wants the sanction of the legislature of the present day.

Now almost obsolete.

Brahma-Marriage.—This is the form of marriage that prevails among the people in general. It has the sanction of both the *shastras* and customs of the people. The fundamental portion of the ceremony is the same as is commonly observed in Bengal, and consists in the giving away of the bride by the father or any other relative, and acceptance of her by the bride-groom. The match is settled by the relatives of the parties with the assistance of a go-between, who is called *bhatait* or *ghatak*. Ordinarily, the girl has to be paid for by the bride-groom party; the amount paid is called *pan*, or bride's value. Occasionally, the bride's father makes a free gift of her to the bride-groom, and adds to her some *yautuka* or valuable presents. The common expression in the country indicative of marriage is *byacheya khawa*, meaning the selling of a girl. When a man can not pay for a girl, he has to work in his would-be father-in-law's house as a servant, and serve out a probationary period, before he can claim the hands of the bride. In this case the bride-groom is called *ghar-jaya* or *ghar-jamata*.

The girl is generally sold.

Ghar-jaya.

When the terms of the marriage are agreed upon by the parties, an auspicious day is fixed in consultation with the village astrologer, on which day the friends of the bride-groom send a quantity of betel-leaves, and betel-nuts to the house of the bride. If the party deputed with these presents meet with any inauspicious omen on their way, they turn back home, and the marriage is no more thought of. A dead body, a funeral, a ditch recently cut, a leech, a snake,—these are the chief among the evil sights which disqualify a match. Should the party, on the other hand, see on the way milk, flowers, or fish, it augurs happiness of the couple. After the party reach the house of the bride, the neighbours and friends on both sides assemble together, and the betel-nuts are cut in the presence of the gathering and distributed amongst the guests. This is called *ghata path dekhani gua*. If within three days after the cutting of the *gua*, no inauspicious event takes place in the family, a notice is sent to the bride-groom's house, and a day is appointed for the marriage in the presence of friends and neighbours, accompanied by the cutting of betel-nuts, which is called *dara gua*. Presents consisting of curd, *cheera*, fish, new cloth, shell bracelets, vermilion, betel-nuts and betel-leaves are sent to the bride. The guests are fed with the eatables on the day of the marriage. This is called *dhan bhoj*. Among the ill omens on the second occasion may be mentioned – a death in the family, the occurence of a fire in the house and the breaking of earthen pots used in the kitchen. If these and like events happen, the marriage, if not altogther abandoned, would be indefinitely postponed.

Marriage how settled.

Ghata path dekhani gua.

Dara gua.

When the bride is taken round the bride-groom it is the custom for the father of the bride to sprinkle holy water on the heads of the couple. If the father be not living, this function is performed by some one else, who is thenceforth known as the *pani chhita bap*.

Pani chhita bap.

The services of the Brahman priest are necessary at the marriage of the Rajvansi.

The girl is married while very young ; in fact the first breaking of the teeth is regarded as the time after which she can be given away in marriage.

Age of marriage.

The ceremony of *do-kapra* is performed when the girl arrives at puberty. The young women of the neighbourhood assemble together, and tie a cloth called *agran* round the breast of the girl. From that day the girl is considered to be a woman.

Do-kapra.

Widow-Marriage.—Strictly speaking the term "widow marriage", as applied to a form of connection among the Rajvansis, is a misnomer. The union between a widow and a

The *pachhua* union is no widow-marriage

Its issue is not legitimate.

man among the native Hindus in this State is no marriage at all, and no ceremony is performed on the occasion. The issue of the union, under a recent ruling of the State Council, has not the status of a legitimate child, and does not succeed to the man's property. This form of connection is looked down upon even by the people themselves.

Pachhua union described. *Gao gach*, *pachhua* and *sangna*. *Dangua* and *dhoka* wives.

When a widow accepts a man to live with him, she, in the vocabulary of the people, is said to do *gao gach*, and is known as the *pachhua* wife of the man, who, in his turn, is called her *sangna*. When a man takes possession of a widow *apparently* by force, the latter is called the *dangua* wife, the word *dangua* meaning "beaten", from *dang*, a "stick"; but in reality no forcible means has ever to be adopted, and such connections are entered into always by mutual consent. In like manner, when a widow of her own accord enters the house of a man and lives with him, she is called the *dhoka* (entered) wife. The name *pachhua* means "coming after", and is always a term of contempt. It is invariably used to designate a widow who lives with a man as his wife. The children by her former husband are called the *dhoka* children of the new man, who, again, is known as their *dhoka* father. In fact the term *dhoka* is generally used to designate the relationship between the woman or her children by her first husband on the one side, and the man or his children by his married wife on the other.

Dhoka relationship.

chhua connection encouraged by relatives.

Young widows are sometimes given away by their own relatives to the suitors on the receipt of a sum of money; ornaments have also to be occasionally presented to the woman to induce her to become a *pachhua*. Although a social stigma attaches to the *pachhua* connection even according to the public opinion of the caste itself, yet there is many a Rajvanshi father, father-in-law, or brother-in-law, who himself acts as the go-between, and brings about the union for a paltry sum of money, or any other present.

Marriage-tie

The lower classes of the people do not always consider the marriage-tie as sacred and inviolable as it should be. Cases of the same girl being married twice are not therefore rare. It often happens that a married girl is detained by her parents or other relatives for effecting a second marriage, and the husband is not allowed any access to her. This practice is not confined to the Rajvansis alone, but obtains among the Musalmans as well. In such a case the law of the country affords a speedy relief to the injured husband, who has only to move the Chief Magistrate of the State, designated the Fouzdari Ahelkar, and that official summarily puts the wife in the possession of the husband, if of course the

marriage is admitted. If the woman denies the marriage the husband is referred to the Civil Court.

Re-marriage of Mahomedan widows.

The re-marriage of Mahomedan widows is very common and the form of marriage goes by the name of *nika*, just as is the custom in Bengal.

The *daya-bhag* guides inheritance among Hindus.

Succession and Inheritance.—Succession among the Rajvansis is governed by the Hindu Law of the Bengal School, namely, the *Daya-bhag*. The child of a *pachhua* is considered illegitimate, and does not succeed to the *sangna's* property.

Also among Mahomedans.

In matters of succession and inheritance the native Mahomedans of Cooch Behar are guided by the Hindu Law. The party who claims to be governed by the Mahomedan law has to prove that he is a foreigner, and that the Mahomedan law of inheritance has always been followed in his family. This fact furnishes an additional support to the theory that the native Musalmans, the *nasyas*, are only Hindu converts to the faith of Mahomed, who have not been allowed by the State to cause undue partitions of their small effects, such as the Mahomedan Law permits.

Inference from above.

Funeral ceremonies are the same as in Bengal.

FUNERAL CEREMONIES.—The mode of performing the last rites with the dying and the dead among the Rajvansis is almost the same as is followed by the Hindus of Lower Bengal. The dead are burnt, and the cremation is done in the usual Hindu style. After the corpse has been carried to the river-side, and the funeral pile erected, four large bamboos are planted beside the pile and a *Chandratap* is attached to their ends. A fan, sandals, a bamboo sunshade, a *hukka* and *chhilum*, an earthen pot, a *pira*, a *koola* full of paddy &c., are generally placed on the *chita*, after the cremation has been finished. The *asthi* meant for immersion into the Ganges is generally chosen from the forehead, and is not brought home till after the *dashaha* or ten days of the death; it is kept buried somewhere near the burning *ghat*, or outside the house. On the tenth day it is taken to the house of the deceased, and is afterwards sent to be thrown into the Ganges.

Things which are left on the *chita*.

Dealing with the *asthi* or bone of the deceased

On the thirtieth day the *shradha* is performed, the mourners observing the *ashauch* all the time. On the thirty-second day fish is partaken of by the relatives of the deceased.

The *shradha*, and eating of fish

CHAPTER IV.

EDUCATION.

State of education.

In every 10,000 of the male Hindus of Cooch Behar 1,016 persons are literate, of whom 254 are pupils. For the female the number is only 31, of whom seven are yet learning. Thus every ninth man, and about 1 in 300 women among the Hindus can read and write. In this respect Cooch Behar is in advance of the neighbouring British districts of Rangpur and Jalpaiguri, and also of Dinajpur.

Among Hindus.

Among Musalmans.

Among the Musalmans 813 in every 10,000 males, and 19 in every 10,000 females are literate, including 212 and 8, respectively, as pupils. Every twelfth man, and about 1 in 500 women, of the Mahomedan population can thus read and write. The proportion of the literate Musalmans is greater in this State than in the bordering British District of Rangpur, and also in Pabna, Rajshahi and Maldah. Jalpaiguri is in advance of Cooch Behar in point of education of the Musalmans.

More literates among Hindus than Musalmans.

The proportion of the literate among the Hindus is greater than among the Musalmans. High education is also more advanced among the Hindus. There are now some Hindu graduates among the natives, while no Musalman has yet gone beyond the First of Arts.

Expansion of education since 1881.

Since 1881 there has been a great expansion of the literate class, both male and female. In 1881 the number of literate males was 16,305 ; in 1891 it came up to 24,986 ; the increase was thus over 53 percent. In the case of females the increase has been still marked. In 1891 the number of educated females was 545, against 231 in 1881, shewing an increase of above 135 per cent. The rate of increase has been more rapid here than in Rangpur, Dinajpur, Bogra, Rajshahi, and Pabna. Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri, however, attained better results than this State.

English education not much advanced.

Excluding the Europeans, Eurasians and native Christians, the number of persons who could read and write English in the country in 1891 was 603, of whom 6 were females. Of this number 75 were Rajvansis.[7]

Educational institutions.

The State has done, and is still doing, a great deal to impart education, both primary and high, to its people. It has established a first grade College in the town of Cooch Behar where pupils obtain free tuition. There is a good Entrance School also under first rate mangement. The sub-divisonal towns of Mekhligunj, Mathabhanga

[7] The figures are taken from the Census Report of 1891.

and Dinhata have each got an Entrance School, a half of the cost of which is contributed by the State. Besides these, there are 242 middle English and middle Vernacular Schools, and upper Primary and lower Primary Schools, and some Madrasas, all maintained or aided by the State. The amount of annual State grant for education is Rs. 75,000. The State, therefore, expends a little above one anna and six pies per head for the education of its subjects.

Cost of education per head of population.

CHAPTER V.

DISEASES AND INFIRMITIES.

The most common diseases prevalent in the country are fever, hooping cough, dyspepsia, and cholera. The people very seldom use either Western or Ayurvedic medicines, and, except in times of cholera, their sickness does not fully come to the notice of the authorities. They are ordinarily treated by the *Ojhas* or village quacks, who, in addition to offering *pujas* to the offended *deo* or spirit, administer some native drugs. In the case of obstinate maladies it is superstitiously believed that the suffering is due to the working of an evil spirit, and his propitiation consequently forms the most prominent part of the treatment. When some members of a household die in quick succession the homestead is supposed to be under the influence of a bad spirit, and is abandoned ; and the whole family shifts to a new place. Change of houses owing to, as it is believed, the persecution of the *deo* is not uncommon.

Diseases common in the country.

Ojhas or village quacks.

Mode of treatment.

The people have no faith in scientific medicines, and, although there are Charitable Dispensaries and Hospitals in every part of the country maintained by the State, they very rarely seek the aid of those institutions. This repugnance of the people to anti-native treatment is, however, gradually decreasing.

People have no faith in scientific medicines.

The Ojhas, or *Rojahs* as they are called, have sometimes very good medicines for sores and carbuncles. Very obstinate cases of sores, which have baffled scientific treatment for a long time, and have been declared as almost incurable, are known to have been fully cured by the Ojha with native drugs in a comparatively short time.

Some good native drugs for sores.

Of the epidemics, cholera and small-pox are the chief, although the visitation of the latter is not so frequent as that of the former. The people call the former *Garmari* and the latter *Thakurani* disease. Cholera does often great havoc among them, as they are averse to proper treatment. They have a very great dread of this

Epidemics of cholera and small-pox.

People's dread of cholera.

malady. When any member of a household is attacked with cholera, house is shunned by the neighbours, and even the friends of the sufferer fear to approach him and nurse him.

Patient dies without care.

The victim is left in a hut with a pot of water to shift for himself, so long as strength lasts, and at last dies a horrible death, without sympathy and care. It is no wonder therefore that cholera, sufficiently fatal under much better circumstances, often disolates entire hoseholds and *tarfs* or villages.

Home-stead deserted.

After a few deaths have occurred the house is deserted, and the survivors often betake themselves to some river-side, or lonely field, where they live under almost any sort of protection, not uncommonly having the bare heavens above their heads. Vigils are kept all through the night, and drums are often kept up sounding, or kerosine tins are beaten, or any sort of noise made to scare away the evil spirit of cholera. It is believed that the *deo* will attack a man the more easily if he goes to sleep. These superstitious precautions make them the more susceptible to the attack of the malady.

Infirmities,—leprosy, insanity, blindness and deaf-mutism.

Leprosy is rather of common occurrence. It is found more among the Rajvansi than the Musalman, and may be largely due to unclean habits and bad diet. Goitre or Derbyshire-neck is a bad deformity, and is often met with. It is found chiefly among the women. Blindness, deaf-mutism and insanity also rank among the foremost of the infirmities.

Number of the afflicted and their proportion to general population.

The following table compares the actual number of persons afflicted by insanity, blindness, deaf-mutism, and leprosy, as returned by the censuses of 1881 and 1891, and their proportion to the general population :—

Infirmities.	Numbers.				Proportion in 10,000 of the Population.					
	Male.		Female.		Male.		Female.		Both sexes	
	1881.	1891.	1881.	1891.	1881.	1891.	1881.	1891.	1881.	1891.
Insane ...	412	860	248	248	13·2	11·9	8·5	8·9	10·8	10·4
Blind ...	433	343	540	382	13·1	11·3	18·5	13·8	16·1	12·5
Deaf-mutes ...	712	665	360	302	22·8	20·0	12·1	10·9	17·6	15·5
Lepers ...	956	621	326	106	30·6	20·5	11·2	6·0	20·9	13·3

The insane numerous among men

Insanity.—The insane are more numerous among men than women, and, although there has been a decrease in the number of the

male insane since 1881, the number of females continue unchanged. The proportion of the insane in 10,000 of the population is 10·4. This figure is the highest in the Bengal Presidency. "The insane," observes Mr. O' Donnell in the Census Report of 1891, "are most numerous in Bengal proper and especially among the Mongoloid population of the Cooch Behar State. The congenitally idiotic returned is comparatively small, the great mass of the insane being found between 20 and 45 years of age, the period when acquired mania is most common in all countries." Mr. O' Donnell however, agrees with his predecessor Mr. Bourdillon "that those who have been returned as insane are for the most part suffering merely from sensile amentia" This grievous infirmity finds more victims among the Musalmans than Hindus. While every 10·9 males and 7·5 females in every 10,000 of the population were insane among the Hindus in 1891, the proportion among the Musalmans was 12·1 and 11·0 in the case of males and females, respectively. Mr. Bourdillon in 1881 argued that consanguinous marriage, a fertile source of imbecility in Europe, was probably the cause of the excess of insanity among the Musalmans, who rather favour than condemn, as Hindus do, the marriage of blood-relatives.

The infirmity finds more victims among Musalmans than Hindus.

Probable cause.

Among other causes, the use of *ganja* is partly responsible for the high rate of insanity among the population. The following remarks of Mr. O' Donnell bearing upon this subject are well worth reproduction. "Although it is possible that there may be a racial strain towards insanity in Northern and Eastern Bengal, it is very probable that the greater preference evinced by the people for toxic drugs such as *ganja* or Indian hemp, must be taken into account. The intoxicants in use in Behar and Chutia Nagpur, a dilute form of spirit obtained from the flower of Mahua tree, the fermented juice of the palmyra palm, and rice-beer, are all comparatively weak liquors, and are never known to induce mental disorder. *Ganja* on the other hand, is unquestionably very deleterious, being recognized throughout Bengal as a brain-excitant of a very dangerous kind. Still mental affliction is so rare in even the most affected parts of Bengal proper that the ordinary misfortunes of life are quite sufficient to account for it. The people are to a large extent civilized, and have frequent causes for cerebral trouble. They are a litigious, busy race, who may reasonably be expected to suffer more from the diseases of civilization of which insanity is one, than the stolid field labourers who form the bulk of the inhabitants of Behar, or the primitive tribes of the Chutia Nagpur Hills. The comparative frequency of brain-disturbance amongst the upper classes bears out this view."[8]

Insanity partly attributed to the use of *ganja* by Mr. O'Donnell.

[8] Census Report 1891, Vol. III, Chapter XIV, Para. 17.

The blind preponderate among the females.

Blindness.—The blind preponderate among the females. The age at which blindness is most common is 50 and upwards. The number of the blind is proportionately large among the *Vaishnavas* probably aged beggers. Blindness is rare among the Musalmans.

Cause of this infirmity.

Unclean habits of life are to some extent the predisposing cause of this infirmity. Agriculturists and cowherds enjoy much immunity from the malady. Cooch Behar ranks third among the British Districts and Feudatory States of the Bengal Presidency in respect of the proportion of the sufferers from this affliction to the entire population.

More deaf-mutes among men than women.

Deaf-mutism.—The proportion of the deaf-mutes in Cooch Behar is 15·5 of 10,000 of its population, and the number of the afflicted males is double of that of the females. The prevalence of this infirmity is marked along the whole Northern Frontier of the Lower Provinces, and Cooch Behar ranks third among the tracts

Ages at which commonly found.

falling within these higher latitudes. Deaf-mutism is much more common in childhood than at any later age, the periods most subject being from five to ten years, and ten to fifteen years. "The former age," remarks Mr. O'Donnell, "is certainly one at which it would be difficult to conceal deaf-mutism in girls, except in the limited circle of the higher castes; and still the predominance of males is very marked. There is no doubt some concealment among females, but

Proportion of the afflicted among Hindus and Musalmans.

not sufficient to account for the difference between the totals of the sexes." The infirmity is more common among the Musalmans than Hindus; while 17 of every 10,000 of the former of both sexes suffer from this disability, the proportion among the latter is 14.

More lepers among men than women, and among Hindus than Musalmans.

Leprosy.—Cooch Behar ranks first among the districts and Native States within the Bengal Presidency in respect of the proportion of the lepers among the population. The lepers among the males are far more numerous than among the females, although the number of both has considerably decreased since 1881. The Hindus are more liable to it than the Musalmans.

The Medical Institutions of the State and cost of treatment.

There are at present nine hospitals in different parts of the State, in seven of which there is indoor accommodation. Above 20 thousand patients receive medical treatment annually in these dispensaries free of charge. The amount of Medical grant is about Rs. 30,000 a year. The annual cost of the State for affording medical relief to the people is therefore about 10 pies per head of the population.

Ayurvedic Dispensary.

There is an Ayurvedic Dispensary in the town of Cooch Behar where nine thousand patients, more or less, obtain medicine gratis every year.

CHAPTER VI.

OCCUPATION.

SECTION I.

Different Professions.

Roughly speaking the people have only one main occupation which is agriculture. With the exception of potters, barbers, *badigars* or drum-beaters, washermen and fishermen, there is almost no other section of the people who do not largely depend upon agriculture for their subsistence. All other occupations or professions are pursued in addition, and as supplementary, to agriculture. It is, therefore, almost impossible to classify the people according to the occupation or profession followed by them. The different professions can only be enumerated. Public service, personal service, agriculture, pasturage, manufacture, and some other independent professions are the chief among the occupations of the people. For the purpose of detailed notice, the main occupations are classed under (1) Industries and Manufactures, and (2) Agriculture. The former is described in the next Section. A short account of agriculture will appear in a separate Chapter.

Agriculture is main occupation of the people.

SECTION II.

Industries and Manufactures.

Of the manufactures the following deserve special notice :—

I.—SILK, COTTON, AND JUTE FABRICS.

(*a*).—*Silk-fabrics*—A kind of rough and coarse silk is obtained from the *endi* worm which is regularly reared for this purpose. This worm is nurtured and fed on the leaves of castor-oil plants and *makai*-trees. The thread is often very coarse, and is woven in a hand-loom into cloths about 24 inches wide and 9 feet long. A sheet is ordinarily made by sewing two such pieces together, and serves as a winter-clothing. The industry is confined to women, and its market value is almost nothing. The *endi*-cloth is prepared mostly for personal wear, and cannot be obtained ready made for purchase. If one wishes to get a cloth of the kind, one has to give a special order with an advance of a part of the value. The cloth is very stout and eminently fit for rough use. An *endi*-sheet ordinarily lasts the whole term of the life of the wearer. A cloth of the ordinary kind costs from Rs. 6 to Rs. 8. One of a finer texture is worth more. Cheap foreign cloths are, however, superseding this article of native manufacture.

Endi-silk.

Fota and *patani* cloths

(*b*).—*Cotton-fabrics.*—Formerly the people used to wear home-made cloth here as in every other part of India. In fact spinning and weaving were reckoned amongst the qualifications of a girl at her marriage. The import of foreign cloths has, however, served to practically extinguish the native industry. At present the weavers make cloths of the kinds known as *fota* and *patani*, both plain and coloured, mostly worn by the females. The texture is rough, and the thread used is imported, the art of spinning having almost completely died out. *Gamchhas* or napkins prepared by the native *tantis* are comparatively in demand. The industry of making coloured napkins with flowered borders has not yet totally disappeared from amongst the native females.

Napkins.

The Garo and Mech women still weave their own cloths variegated with different colours. The men have already commenced to depend upon imported cloth.

Mekhli and gunny.

(*c*).—*Jute-fabrics.*—Amongst the fabrics made from jute, gunny and *mekhli* rank the foremost. Very good gunny is prepared from jute in different parts of the country, especially in the west, and there is still a brisk market for it. Mekhligunj is especially noted for its fine gunnies. But the finest production from jute is the *mekhli*, as the coloured jute-cloths of Mekhligunj are called. This cloth serves very well as *pardahs*, and a piece measuring 6 or 7 feet by 4 or 5 feet is often worth so much as seven or eight rupees. A piece of ordinary gunny-cloth of the same measures fetches a value of ten to fourteen annas. The industry in the expensive *mekhli* of pure jute is gradually dying out. The spinning of fine jute-thread is a difficult art, and does not pay in these days of cheap imported cotton-yarn. The *mekhli* is now generally made with cotton-threads, and is much cheaper and less strong than the jute-fabric. But this too is gradually disappearing as an industry of the people.

II.—Clay and Metalic Utensils, and Ornaments.

Only coarse pottery is produced.

(*a*).—*Pottery.*—The articles of pottery made in the country are of an inferior quality, mostly owing to the want of good clay. The variety is also limited: only *handis* and *saras* are ordinarily made. *Kalasis* or water-jugs are not prepared and have to be bought from the traders from Eastern Bengal at a high price. In fact Eastern Bengal commands a good trade in earthen wares, and annually takes away a large amount of money from the country. The use of *bosh* or gourd-shell for keeping water has not yet fully disappeared.

Figure-making.—The industry in figures of clay is yet in its infancy. Clay-figures fairly well shaped are made only in Teldhar in tracts bordering on the Karatoya, where good clay can be had.

The people have yet to learn much in pottery and figure-making.

(*b*).—*Smithery.*—The black-smiths turn out the ordinary implements of a householder's daily use. The pattern is strictly local, and the weapons are generally light. These instruments have, however, good a edge and cut very well. *Khandas* or big sacrificial knives of good make and quality are prepared in the State. Black-smiths.

Gold-smiths, going by the name of *banias*, are not rare. These men have, however, no training, and can not go beyond the rude old pattern of native ornaments. Of the silver-ornaments *har* or necklace, *mootha* or bracelet, *jooti* or ear-ring, and *bankkharoo*, an ornament for the leg, are the foremost. *Noth* or nose-ring, *anti* or ear-ring, and *kadma*, a kind of ear-ornament, and finger-ring, are the chief among the ornaments of gold. Gold smiths. Native ornaments.

Of the brasiers there are not many in the country. Brass-*lotas* are prepared in some parts of Mekhligunj; but the industry is not extensive enough to furnish an independent means of livelihood to the manufacturer. Brasiers.

III.—WOOD AND BAMBOO WORKS.

(*a*).—*Wood-works.*—Carpentry was of a primitive nature before the present reign. The establishment of the Artisan's School in the town of Cooch Behar, and the endeavours of the Jail authorities in imparting lessons to the convicts in carpentry, have partly succeeded in turning out a number of carpenters who can make decent articles of furniture.

(*b*).—*Bamboo-works.*—That the natives are born artists is testified to by the good bamboo-works turned out by them. Besides wicker-baskets and pans they make almost any thing of their daily use from bamboo. Stools, cots, *moras* and chairs, *hukas* and pipes, sun-shades and sandals, fans and fine mats, and many other articles of good workmanship are turned out by the native of Cooch Behar from bamboo alone. The *domes* are great bamboo-workers; but their industry is confined only to the articles of an agriculturist's daily use. People are good artists.

IV.—ARTICLES OF FOOD.

Of the articles of food *ghee*, mustard-oil and molasses command a good trade. Excellent *ghee* is prepared from butter drawn from the milk of buffaloes in Mathabhanga and Tufangunj, and can be had in large quantities at a price varying from Rs. 32 to Rs. 35 per maund of 90 tola *sers*. The country also produces the best mustard-oil in whole Bengal. Tufangunj is specially known for its mustard-seed, and mustard-oil. Large quantities of this oil are annually exported to the districts of *Ghee*, mustard oil, and molasses.

Eastern Bengal by the merchants. First-class oil sells at ten to twelve rupees a maund.

Sugar-cane.

The western and southern districts of Cooch Behar produce sugar-cane in large quantities, and the cultivators also draw the juice and prepare molasses. There is, however, no industry in sugar-making. *Gur* is sold at Rs. 2-8 to Rs. 3 a maund.

SECTION. III.

Weights and Measures.

Weights are seldom used by the people who generally sell their produce by the measure. This is yet universally the case in respect of grains. Jute and tobacco, however, are now weighed. The shop-keepers and *paikars* use *sers* of 80 tolas, and also of 82 tolas and 10 annas; sometimes the lighter or *kacha ser* of 60 tolas is also used. *Ghee* is generally sold in the interior by the 90 tola *ser*.

Table of measure.

The measures of quantity are the following:—

1¼ Sers	...	...	1 Tala
20 Talas	...	...	1 Bish
16 Bishes	...	...	1 Puti or 10 Maunds.

A *tala* is not uniform.

The *tala* measure is not, however, uniform everywhere. It varies from 1 *ser* to 2 *sers* in different parts of the country. A *puti* does not thus give full 10 Maunds always, and in some places it exceeds that quantity.

So also the *maund*.

The *maund* does not like wise always represent a fixed weight. In the eastern part of the State, people sell oil and oil-seed by what is called the *teleni* maund, which is equal to 2½ maunds of 40 *sers* of 80 tollas each. The ordinary maund of oil gives 48 *sers* of 58 tollas each. In the tobacco districts the popular maund of tobacco is equal to 3 ordinary maunds.

The want of a standard measure is often taken advantage of both by the buyer and the seller. When articles are cheap the measure remains normal. As the price rises and the stock falls short the measure imperceptibly dwindles into something very different from the standard. Again, the buyer and the seller have very seldom measures of the same capacity. The *paikars* or brokers as a rule would have measures bigger than the standard while buying from the people; this is, however, changed for one of a smaller capacity when he is selling away his stock. There is thus a continual tussle between the buyer and the seller, the former trying to take a bit too much, and the latter to give a bit too less. The result is often a medium between th 'wo, although the gain is generally on the side of the *paikar*

SECTION IV.

Labour and Wages.

No exclusive day-labourers.

There is no exclusive class of day-labourers in the country. Hired labour can not be thus always had in the interior. The people are mostly agriculturists. When there is no work in the field men may be found willing to serve for wages. This difficulty does not occur in the towns and big bunders where labour is often hired out.

The native does not perform some works.

When labour is available there are some works which a native will not do. Digging and carrying of earth are the foremost of these. For these works the services of up-country coolies have always to be engaged. It is the domestic servants, farm-labourers, thatchers, and carpenters, who generally hire out their labour. The wages differ almost in every case, and are charged both by the day and by the month. Some of the rates are given below :—

Table of wages.

Nature of service.	Wages per diem.	Wages per mensem.
	As. As.	Rs. As. Rs. As.
Domestic servant ...	.....	1 8 to 4 0
Farm-labourer ...	5 to 6	....
Digger ...	4	7 8
Thatcher—		
Ordinary ...	4 to 5	7 8 to 9 8
Expert ...	6 to 8	10 0 to 15 0
Carpenter ...	6 to 8	10 0 to 15 0

Besides the wages the domestic servants have to be fed and clothed. They have to be paid by the month. Sometimes native servants agree to work on yearly wages, varying from Rs. 10 to Rs. 24, or even Rs. 30, on an advance of one year's pay. A domestic servant does not work for daily wages.

The farm-labourers have to be given one and sometimes two meals in addition to the amount of wages. They very seldom agree to work by the month, and their labour, namely, reaping harvests, is also of a temporary nature. All other labourers work both by the day and by the month.

CHAPTER VII.

AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS.

SECTION. I.

System of Agriculture.

People averse to innovation in agriculture.

In matters connected with agriculture as in other things the people have their peculiar superstition. New modes of cultivation or the rearing of new crops are regarded with fear as being injurious. A common saying among the natives is "what *bapdada* (father and grandfather, ancestors) have not done I can not do." The system of agriculture which obtained in the country several generations ago thus remains unaltered even at the present day. Useful innovation although necessary can not thus be easily introduced among the people. Very few crops are now raised in the country which are not at least two centuries old.

A.—SOIL.

Soil alluvial and sandy.

The soil of Cooch Behar is of alluvial formation and has a large admixture of sand. The greater portion of it is a light loam that can retain moisture and easily give it out, and does not become water-logged. When dry it does not cake up, but yields to light pressure, and easily gets dissolved. Ploughing is not thus difficult, and does not entail much labour on the cultivator or his cattle.

Surface-soil, and soil below.

The surface-soil, which contains the fine loam, is not commonly more than 2 feet deep ; at places it is not even so much. Below it is sand, bare but fine, and after a foot or two of that comes out coarse sand. Deep cultivation is thus neither necessary nor profitable here.

Character of soil in different parts of the country.

The character of the soil is not, however, the same every where. The western part of the State known as Gird Teldhar, situated in Pargana Boda in the district of Jalpaiguri, lying between the old channel of the Tista west of Haldibari and the Karatoya, has more clay than sand, and the soil here is harder than in other parts of the State. Pargana Mathabhanga, although more sandy than Gird Teldhar, has less sand than Mekhligunj, which largely resembles Pargana Lalbazar. The proportion of sand in the soil of Pargana Cooch Behar is large, larger than in Mathabhanga. The soil of Pargana Dinhata resembles that of Gird Teldhar more than the soil of any other part of the State. Tufangunj mostly resembles Cooch Behar, but its soil is less sandy.

Again, the different parts of the same Pargana do not often possess soil of the same quality. Rahimgunj, the western portion of Pargana Mekhligunj, has a richer soil than the eastern portion. The southern portion of Pargana Mathabhanga is poorer and more sandy than the northern, and closely resembles Pargana Lalbazar. The north and east of Pargana Cooch Behar have richer soil than the south and the west. The soil of that portion of Pargana Tufangunj which lies east of the Dipa-Raidak, is far more rich than that in the west. The portion of Pargana Dinhata east of the Bura Dharla, has a finer loam than the western, and the soil in the north of that tract is richer than that in the south.

It varies in different parts of same Pargana.

B.—CATTLE.

The cattle are of the ordinary Bengal type, small in stature but hardy. There are breeding bulls in every village, sometimes the exclusive property of some individuals, and occasionally belonging to the public, having been let loose after dedication to gods. Cattle from the North-West Provinces are now largely imported; but these are generally plough-bullocks or cart-bullocks. Bulls and cows are but seldom brought in. A Cattle-Breeding Farm was started by the State in 1879-80, and it has done some good to improve the condition of the cattle. Some bulls from the Farm were supplied to some of the Sub-divisional towns, where their services are eagerly availed of by the people living in the neighbourhood. With all this, however, the effect of the climate on the growth of animal life cannot be counteracted to any appreciable extent.

Cattle small but hardy.

Fodder—There is abundance of grass in every part of the State, and the cattle are generally well-fed. Pasture is not regularly kept by the people. There are, however, pieces of *khas* land, and *dangas* or high lands in every part of the country. These are not cultivated, and are used for grazing purposes. Straw of Haimanti paddy is preserved, and it is a nourishing food of the cattle.

Cattle well-fed

Water—The country is intersected by rivers, *nalas* and *beels*, and the scarcity of water is never felt. The cattle thus always get a good drink.

No scarcity of water.

Diseases—The epidemics of small-pox and hoof-disease are very common, and annually kill a large number of cattle. There is no veterinary surgeon in the country; but every cultivator knows something of the ordinary treatment of cattle-disease and administers medicines himself, or gets an old and experienced neighbour to do it for him. The want of professional knowledge is keenly felt all the same, and is perhaps responsible for the high rate of mortality among the cattle every year.

Small-pox and hoof-disease.

C.—AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.

Description of agricultural implements.

The following are the implements of agriculture used in the country:—

Plough; *Bida;* Harrow; *Karali; Koorsi; Pasoon; Hachni; Kanchi; Dao; Kurali;* and the spade.

The Plough.—It is a light structure with a handle of bamboo, the lower piece being of light wood to which the iron or ploughshare is attached. The iron is smaller than what is in use in the southern districts of Bengal. A heavy instrument is not required for the loose soil of the country. It is drawn by a pair of bullocks. Sometimes cows also are harnessed to the yoke, jointly with bullocks.

The Bida.—It is a large rake with teeth of iron used for thinning out the plants. The mode of working it is the same as in the case of the plough.

The Spade.—It is not much used except during clearance, and for clipping the *ali* or embankment between two fields.

The Harrow.—It is made of bamboo and is drawn by two pairs of bullocks, while two men stand on it for weight. It is used for levelling the ground, breaking the clods, and gathering the weeds thrown up by the plough. It also thins out the plants by being drawn over them.

The Karali.—It is the end of a bamboo with a foot of a branch projecting from one end, and is used for collecting and as well as scattering the straw. It is worked with the hand.

The Koorsi.—It is the mallet of wood, and is used for breaking the clods of earth. It is very light and sometimes one man can work two, one with either hand.

The Pasoon.—It is a small flat iron sharpened at the end with a wooden handle, and is used for weeding the field.

The Hatchni.—It is the native rake with bar and teeth or pins of wood, used for stratching and smoothing the soil, and collecting the grass and weed thrown out by the plough and the *vida*, and heaped up by the harrow. It is worked by a single man with the hand.

The Kanchi.—It is the sickle or reaping hook. The blade is of iron and the handle of wood.

The Dao and Kurali.—The *dao* is a large knife used for cutting hard substances, and *kurali* is the name for the native axe. These are used for effecting clearances only, and are not confined to the agricultural operations alone.



A TYPICAL COOCH BEHAR FIELD.—*Page 160.*

The cost of a set of these implements varies from Rs. 4 to Rs 5. A pair of bullocks costs from Rs. 20 to Rs. 25. A farmer has thus to lay out Rs. 25 or Rs. 30 for a complete agricultural outfit. Cost of a set of implements and a pair of cattle.

D.—SYSTEM OF PLOUGHING.

There is practically but one mode of ploughing in force in the country, although there is some difference in the details between the process adopted for the cultivation of the late paddy and that of other crops. The plough is drawn by a pair of bullocks, or one bullock and one cow. At first furrows are made along the field, almost touching and parallel to each other. Then the plough is worked crosswise cutting the first furrows at right angles. The furrows are not more than 4 inches deep at this stage. The field is then harrowed twice, first lengthwise and then breadthwise. How a plough is worked.

The *mai* or harrow is drawn by two pairs of bullocks guided by two men who take their stand on the harrow and press the soil with their weight. The land is now left for sometime to dry, and is then again ploughed and harrowed. This combined operation is technically called *Ek-chash*. Ploughing the field diagonally with the cattle is regarded with superstition as being injurious to the animals. The same restriction does not attach to drawing the plough with the hand. This is in fact often done in connection with the cultivation of tobacco. It is to be noted that ploughing on every occasion means ploughing the land twice and harrowing it twice. The highest depth of a furrow does not exceed a foot. Harrowing. *Ek-chash*; what it means.

The amount of ploughing required is not the same for all crops; it varies from twice to twenty times, and sometimes more, according to the requirement of the crop to be raised.

Tobacco requires the heaviest ploughing, sometimes coming up to 25 or 26 times, while *do-chash* or ploughing twice is sufficient for the pulses. Jute, wheat and Bitri paddy often require an amount of ploughing varying from 6 to 10 times. High ploughing renders the soil very loose, and brings it to a fine dust. Fields which require manuring have to be ploughed more than those that do not, for the purpose of sufficiently mixing the manure with the soil. Heaviest ploughing for tobacco.

The Haimanti crop of paddy does not require more than ploughing 4 times. And even this much is necessary for working the soil up into a stiff mud.

E.—USE OF MANURE AND IRRIGATION.

The use of manure is not extensive; nor is it considered necessary for all crops. Tobacco lands are systematically manured, and so also, though in a less degree, are the lands of jute, Use of manure not extensive.

mustard-seed, sugar-cane, wheat, and barley. Little or no manure is used for other crops. The manure used is cow-dung, old and raw, and oil-cake-dust. Cow-dung is put on the land in small heaps of a basketful each, 10 to 20 feet apart, and is then mixed up with the soil by ploughing and harrowing. Oil-cake-dust is thrown broadcast on the surface and mixed with the soil as above.

Manure is used for rearing the seedlings both of tobacco and paddy.

Manure required for different crops.

The quantity of manure used varies with the nature of the crop. New soil requires more manure than the old. For tobacco it ranges from 200 to 500 maunds per Bigha. For jute and other crops 100 to 300 maunds of manure (raw cow-dung) per Bigha is considered adequate.

The manure, especially, cow-dung, is very seldom purchased, except in the towns and their suburbs. The people have their own cattle from which a large quantity of manure is annually derived. There is also the practice of gathering dry cow-dung from the fields, from which no small supply is obtained.

Oil-cake has to be purchased, and is obtained at Ans. 14 to Rs. 1-4 per maund.

Irrigation is not in vogue.

Irrigation is not resorted to for agricultural operations as a rule, although the tobacco plants, both in the nursery and in the field, are now and then watered. Haimanti paddy requires water, but it is got from rain. This water is kept within the field by raising *alis* or small ridges of earth around it, which also serve as land mark between successive fields. A cheap and simple process of irrigation can, however, largely improve the condition of agriculture in this country.

Soil re-invigorated by fallows.

Although the artificial means of keeping up or assisting the productive power of the soil, such as manuring and irrigation, are not much adopted, the native fertility is great and the soil is reinvigorated by simple fallows. This is examplified by the frequent rotation of crops. Only good tobacco lands are not cultivated twice during the year. Almost all other lands grow two crops. The practice of growing successive crops of Bitri and Haimanti, Bitri and pulses, and oil-seeds and Bitri, on the same land is rather too common in the country.

F.—Exhaustion of the Soil.

Soil is being gradually exhausted.

Notwithstanding, however, the innate richness of the soil, land is losing its productive powers by being over-worked without getting corresponding nourishment. As noted above manure is not regularly used. The floods of the rivers, which often do the function of manuring by leaving a rich alluvial deposit, do not

reach lands in the interior ; and when they do they have exhausted their store of fertilising silt on lands which lie close to the rivers. The demand for increased product is on the other hand being always felt with the increase of the means of communication and of trade,and the cultivators are working their lands to the highest pitch. It is true that the soil is allowed rest now and then. But then the loss of power in working is not made up by the fallow, which, by the way, is not sufficiently adequate or long. The result is that the soil is being gradually exhausted, and the complaint that the land does not produce as much now-a-days as it did of yore is universal. The exhaustion of the soil is marked in tracts lying in the interior, where the rich loam brought in by the floods can never reach. High tracts which remain out of water during the rains also fare no better.

G.—SOWING—ITS TIME FOR BEGINNING.

How the seed is sown.

The seed is scattered broadcast on the furrows raised by the plough. A man takes the seed in a basket, and, as he walks along the field, he takes handfuls from the basket and scatters the seed on the furrows on his left. When the whole plot is done the operation is repeated crosswise. For the majority of the crops this double sowing is the rule. The seed is then covered up with earth by means of ploughing and harrowing. Ploughing after sowing is not necessary when the seed is very small, such as mustard-seed, *til* &c. The land is simply harrowed, and this serves to cover up the seed sufficiently well.

Different seasons for different sowings.

There are different seasons for sowing different crops. The number of crops grown in the country is large, and, with the exception of December, there is no other month of the year when some crop or other is not sown. The busiest sowing season, however, happens to fall shortly before, and again shortly after, the rains,—in March and April, and again in October and November. Jute, *rahar* and Bitri paddy are sown mostly in March and April, and tobacco, mustard-seed, wheat, and barley, chiefly in October and November. There are some mid-winter sowings, such as, *china*, *kaon* and early Bitri in January. July and August, the middle of the rains, have in like manner their share of the cultivation which is Haimanti paddy. *Til* and the pulses are sown in August and September.

H.—INFLUENCE OF WEATHER AT THE TIME OF SOWING.

Crops are damaged by extremes of weather.

Extremes of weather are injurious to agricultural operations. Crops sown in mid-winter when the soil is not much dry are affected by too much moisture. On the other hand sowings made in the hot months of March and April are scorched by too much sun. Some moisture is always wanted, and a sprinkling of rain

now and then improves even the winter crops. A mild season thus proves beneficial to all agricultural operations.

I.—FARM-SERVANTS AND LABOURERS.

Farm-servants called *adhiyars*.

Small farmers cultivate their lands themselves. Big cultivators of almost every grade of tenancy have a class of farm-servants under them called *adhiyars*. These are generally poor men, who occasionally possess their own plough and bullocks, and a bit of rented land too. When a man cultivates another's land with his own plough and bullocks he is called an *Utangkara-praja*. More commonly the *adhiyar* lives in the farmer's premises, and employs the plough and cattle of the latter for cultivation, and is fed by his *grihi* or master till the harvest time. Both these classes of *adhiyars* are remunerated by half the produce of the field. The quantity of seed requried and expended is often deducted from the gross produce, and the remainder is then divided into two. In some cases the party advancing the seed gets the straw ; this happens in the case of Haimanti paddy. No value is attached to the straw of Bitri paddy in the interior, and it is not preserved. The seed is generally supplied by the cultivator himself ; it is invariably so done when the *adhiyar* is not an *Utangkara-praja*.

In the weeding and transplanting seasons day-labourers are often engaged both from among the poor peasantry, and the up-country coolies, who are paid in cash, and are also supplied with one or both the meals.

Present wages.

Wages.—The ordinary wages of an agricultural day-labourer range from 4 annas to 5 annas per diem, giving from Rs.7-8 to Rs. 8-2 per mensem. Labourers of this description received Rs. 2 a month in 1854, Rs. 3 in 1860 and Rs. 5 in 1871. The wages have thus increased fourfold since 1854, and by more than a half since 1871.

Wages in 1854 and 1871.

J.—CULTIVATOR'S LEISURE TIME.

The cultivator does very little reproductive work during his leisure time. He spends his spare time in building or repairing his house, and doing other odds and ends of a native household. Fishing is one of the most popular occupations. Gossiping and visiting the friends also rank among the foremost. In Sub-division Mekhligunj, the manufacture of *mekhli* and gunny gives the cultivator a good occupation in his leisure hour. During the rains the making of bamboo sun-shades called *tokas* is very common.

SECTION II.

Different crops.

The crops raised by the people in this country may be roughly divided into the following five main groups :—

I. Food-grains.
II. Oil-seeds.
III. Tobacco.
IV. Manufactural Crops.
V. Roots and Bulbs.

A short account of these crops is given below. The mode of cultivation of some of the principal of these will be described later on.

1.—FOOD-GRAINS.

Under the head of Food-grains may be classed the following crops :—

1. Paddy.
   (*a*) Bitri or early.
   (*b*) Haimanti or late.
2. Wheat.
3. Barley.
4. China.
5. Kaon.
6. Pulses.
   (*a*) Moog.
   (*b*) Moosoor.
   (*c*) Khesari.
   (*d*) Thakri.
   (*e*) Koolti.
   (*f*) Rahar.
   (*g*) Pea.
7. Mákai.

Paddy is the chief food-grain.

All of these crops are raised in every part of the State in a more or less degree. With the exception of paddy all other crops are only of a secondary nature, and the extent of their cultivation is not large. Although paddy is grown all over the State there are special tracts known for the excellence and abundance of this crop. The western portion of Pargana Mekhligunj, the northern portion of Pargana Mathabhanga, a tract in the north of Pargana Cooch Behar known as Gird Chowra, and almost the whole of Pargana Tufangunj, are well known paddy-districts.

Bitri paddy may be grown on almost any soil; but the distinction lies in the largeness and richness of Haimanti tracts, for which the places noted above are famous. There is some good Haimanti tract in the north of Pargana Dinhata also. Twenty-seven different varieties of Bitri and seventy-six of Haimanti paddy are cultivated in the country. Wheat, barley, *china* and *kaon* are only subsidiary crops of food-grains, and are nowhere raised in large quantities.

Among the pulses *moog* occupies the first place. Very good *moog* is raised in Pargana Tufangunj which can compare favourably with what is called *sona moog* of Lower Bengal. Tufangunj also raises good *Rahar*.

Good *moosoor* is grown in Mathabhanga. The cultivation of pea is very small, and may be left out of account.

Mákai is grown in the suburbs of the town of Cooch Behar, and some other places near the Bunders, in small patches of land, chiefly by the up-country residents of the State.

II.—Oil-seeds.

Til and mustard-seed.

There are two kinds of oil-seeds,—mustard and *til*. They are grown in every part of the State to a more or less extent.

Mustard-seed forms one of the staple crops of Pargana Tufangunj which raises this crop very extensively. The supply of oil in the greater portion of the country is obtained from that Pargana. There are two kinds of mustard-seed: *Rye* and *Jati*. The former is more pungent, while the latter contains more oil. The cultivation of the former is very limited.

The cultivation of *til* is not extensive. *Til*-oil is not used in the State for cooking; it is mostly required for medicinal purposes. Only one species of *til*, namely, *krisna til* or black *til*, is grown in the country.

III.—Tobacoo.

The most profitable crop of the people.

It is one of the principal crops of the country and the most profitable of all agricultural products of the people. With the exception of the north of Parganas Cooch Behar and Tufangunj the cultivation of tobacco is extensive almost every where else. Pargana Lalbazar is especially famous for the excellence of its tobacco. This crop is also very largely raised in Mekhligunj, Mathabhanga and Dinhata, and forms one of the staple products of agriculture of those Parganas.

The traffic in tabacco is large, and the people make a good deal of money by it. Tobacco is sent down in boats to the eastern Distrtcts of Bengal in large quantities.

Value of trade in tobacco.

The Burhmese merchants annually take away thousands of maunds of tobacco from Mekhligunj, and Lalbazar. The value of the annual exports of this crop was about 10 lacs of rupees in 1876. It is by no means less than double the amount at the present day.

A very small portion of the tobacco grown remains in the country, and that only for home consumption.

In Pargana Tufangunj tobacco was not hitherto regarded in the light of an article of trade. Only what was required for the cultivator's yearly consumption used to be raised. The people of this tract have, however, now recognized the utility of this crop as a money-making agency, and the cultivation of tobacco is gradually, though slowly, increasing every year.

Two species of tobacco.

Two species of tobacco are grown in the country : ordinary and *hamakoo*. Cultivation of *hamakoo* is extensive in Mekhligunj. The people do not know how to cure the leaves. The knowledge of tobacco-curing would be of immense benefit to the country which grows excellent tobacco and in large quantities.

Extent of cultivation above one *lac* of Bighas.

As will appear from the table given in the margin the area under tobacco cultivation exceeds one lac of Bighas. Pargana Mathabhanga has the largest quantity of tobacco land, exceeding 31,000 Bighas, and Pargana Tufangunj the smallest, with only about 1,000 Bighas. Although the area under cultivation in Pargana Lalbazar (29,710 Bighas) is less than that in Mathabhanga, it turns out the best tobacco in the whole State, which is of a very good quality. The proportion of first class tobacco land is very high here ; in fact the quantity (17,935 Bighas) is more than half for the whole country. Taluks Adabari and Barabangla are specially known for their good tobacco.[9]

Names of Parganas	Tobacco lands			
	First class	Second class	Third class	Total
Mekhligunj ...	1,474	5,220	5,097	11,791
Mathabhanga ...	7,477	15,276	8,624	31,377
Lalbazar ...	17,935	8,695	3,080	29,710
Dinhata ...	2,867	5,484	3,610	11,991
Cooch Behar ...	3,364	7,545	9,035	19,944
Tufangunj ...	36	107	942	1,085
Total ...	33,153	42,327	30,418	105,898

Lalbazar famous for its good tobacco.

[9] The native adage is—*Barabanglar Jat,*
Adabarir Pat,
the *leaves* of Adabari, and the *quality* of Barobangla are well known.

IV.—MANUFACTURAL CROPS.

The term Manufactural Crops is used to include the following :—

1. Jute.
2. *Shan* or net-fibre.
3. *Kunkura* or Reah.
4. Sugar-cane.
5. *Mootha* or matting grass.

Jute

Jute is one of the principal crops of the people. It is largely grown in every part of the State. The traffic in this article is large and has helped the springing up of Bunders all over the country. Haldibari owes its prosperity to jute traffic only.

The jute grown in this country has fine fibre, and is in demand in Calcutta. It fetches better price than most other jute.

Besides rope and cordage a very good kind of cloth called Mekhli is made of jute-thread in the Mekhligunj sub-division. *Chat* or gunny is also prepared from it in many parts of the country. The gunny of Mekhligunj is generally fine, and is better than any of the sort prepared elsewhere.

Shan.

Shan gives finer fibres than jute. The fisher-men prepare their net with this fibre. It is more valuable than jute. The extent of cultivation of this crop is small, and is not confined to any particular part of the country. It is raised in every Pargana more or less.

Kunkura.

Kunkura, the native name for the reah plant, is raised on small patches of ground near the home-stead land of the cultivator. The land has to be fully manured, and the plants are transplanted. The cultivation of this crop is by no means extensive, and is confined to the fishing community of the people. *Kunkura* gives short but strong and glossy fibres which are used for making fine fishing nets.

Sugar-cane

The cultivation of sugar-cane is extensive in the south-west of the Dinhata sub-division in the south of Pargana Lalbazar, bordering on the district of Rangpur, which is famous for its molasses, generally going by the name of Barabari *goor*. The cultivation of this crop is gradually extending to every part of the State.

Besides raising the crop the people draw juice from it, and prepare molasses out of the same.

Sugar-cane pays better than paddy or mustard-seed.

Mootha.

Mootha is the name for a kind of grass of the *kasia* species, but has more flat leaves. A kind of rough mat is prepared with these leaves. This grass is cultivated mostly in the south of the Dinhata sub-division.

V.—ROOTS AND BULBS.

Under Roots and Bulbs are classed the following :—

1. Potato.
2. Onion.
3. Garlic.
4. *Kachoo* or arum.
5. *Ada* or ginger.
6. *Halood* or turmeric.

Of the root-crops the cultivation of potato is extensive and universal. The species usually grown is smaller in size, and its substance is more sticky than the hill potato, or the big species grown in the North-Western Provinces. It serves the people for a good and substantial food.

The rest of the roots and bulbs are grown in small quantities mostly for Bazar use.

Cultivation of poppy and indigo stopped long ago.

Formerly, the cultivation of poppy was prevalent in the country and opium used to be obtained from it. This was finally put a stop to in 1867.

Indigo also used to be grown in days gone by. Its cultivation appears to have been confined to the modern Sudder sub-division and the southern part of the Dinhata sub-division bordering on the district of Rangpur. There are the ruins of an indigo factory still existing at Gossanimari near the Rajpat on the banks of the Kodaldhoya Beel. The European quarter of the Cooch Behar town is named Nilkuthi, from the fact of an Indigo factory having once existed at the place.

SECTION III.

Rotation and Average of Crops.

A.—ROTATION OF CROPS.

One crop for each plot of land in the whole year is more the exception than the rule in Cooch Behar. The native fertility of the soil is great and although every land is not capable of growing more than one crop in the year, many lands produce two crops or even more. The seasons which mark the cultivation of different crops are rightly speaking the autumn, summer and the rains, as noted above.

Extent of the *do-khanda* land.

The lands which take in mustard-seed, *til*, pulses, wheat, barley, *china* and *kaon* in autumn are vacated in spring, and the summer crops, such as late Bitri and jute can be, and are generally, sown on them. Early Bitri and Haimanti are sometimes successively grown on the same land. The raising of jute and tobacco one after another on the same plot of land is not also rare. But the

quantity of these *do-khanda* or two-crop lands is not very large, and does not perhaps exceed fifty thousand Bighas in the whole State. Manuring is necessary in these cases to prevent exhaustion of the soil.

B.—AVERAGE OF CROPS.

The subjoined table gives the names of the principal crops cultivated in the country, the time of cultivation and of reaping, as well as of their appearance in the market, together with the outturn and market-price :—

Names of crops.	Month or months during which cultivated.	Month or months during which harvested.	When available in the market.	Average outturn per Bigha in maunds.	Average value per maund of 80 tolla *sers*.	Net income of the cultivator from one Bigha.
					Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Haimanti paddy	May to Augt.	Nov. to Jany.	Nov. to June	6 Maunds	2 0 0	6 0 0
Bitri paddy	Feby. to Mrh	June. to Aug.	July. to Oct.	7½ Maunds	2 0 0	7 8 0
Tobacco	Sept. to Nov.	Mrh. to Aprl.	May to Sept.	5 Maunds	5 0 0	12 8 0
Potato	do.	Feby. to Mrh	Feby. to Aprl.	12 Maunds	1 4 0	7 8 0
Jute	April	Aug. to Sept.	Sept. to Decr.	5 Maunds	4 0 0	16 0 0
Mustard-seed ..	October	Jany. to Feby	Jany. to Mrh.	1 M. 20 S.	4 0 0	3 0 0
Til	August	January	Jany. to Feby	1 M. 20 S.	4 0 0	3 0 0
Wheat	Oct. to Nov.	March	Mrh. to Aprl.	6 Maunds	2 8 0	7 8 0
Barley	do.	do.	do.	do.	2 8 0	7 8 0
China	January	do.	Mrh. to Aprl.	6 Maunds	1 8 0	4 8 0
Kaon	do.	May	May. to June	8 Maunds.	1 8 0	6 0 0
Pulses	Aug. to Sept.	March	Mrh. to Aprl.	3 Maunds	2 0 0	3 0 0
Arhar	April	do.	do.	3 Maunds	3 0 0	4 8 0

Of all the crops tobacco is the most profitable. Next comes Jute. Among the paddies the *Bitri* brings in a greater net income than the *Haimanti*. Mustard-seed pays very little. Tobacco and Jute tracts are thus more prosperous than places where mustard-seed is the money-making crop.

SECTION IV.

The staple crops.

A.—BITRI PADDY.

There are two *Bitri* crops : early and late.

Kind of soil required.—High land with a good proportion of sand is necessary for this crop. There are two sowings of this paddy ; one early and the other late. The first crop is sown in the beginning of Magh or middle of January, and gathered in Jaistha or beginning of June. As moisture is wanted for the germination of the seed and the growth of the plant, the early sowing is made on the low lands. The second crop is sown when the season is more advanced in February and March, and depends

for its growth on the light showers of the season. Too much water in the first stage of growth of this crop is injurious. Hence high land, sufficiently porous, preventing the accumulation of water on the surface, is best suited for this crop. By far the largest portion of the Bitri paddy consists of this second or late crop, and is grown on high land.

Bitri grows on *Soium* and *Chaharam* land.

The nomenclature adopted for the sort of land, required for the cultivation of *Bitri* at the classification in the course of the re-settlement operations, is *Soium* and *Chaharum*. The early crop as noticed above, is sown on *Doium*, and sometimes on *Awal* land. The whole of *Soium* and *Chaharum* land, however, is not occupied by the Bitri alone; jute and pulses are also grown on lands of these descriptions. Nor is the whole extent of land available is brought under cultivation every year. A portion is always left to be enriched by a fallow. A portion of the *Soium* land is also often taken up by the cultivation of the late or *Haimanti* paddy.

Extent of fallow.

The extent of the fallow varies according to the nature of the year. In a good year when food is not dear, the cultivation of food-grains is less extensive than in a year of scarcity and high prices, when all available land is brought under cultivation. On an average a fourth of the entire land seems to be left fallow every year.

Extent of *Bitri* cultivation.

Leaving aside the fallow a half of the remainder of *Soium* and *Chaharam* lands is taken up by Bitri. The cultivation of the early crop of Bitri is very limited and does not take up more than $\frac{1}{2}$ anna, or a thirty-second part of the *Awal* and *Soium* lands. At this rate the total of the area on which Bitri paddy is grown is about 2,55,000 [10] Bighas as distributed below :—

Name of Pargana.	Extent of early Bitri cultivation in Bighas.	Extent of ordinary Bitri cultivation in Bighas.	Total extent of Bitri cultivation in Bighas.
Mekhligunj	3,000	35,000	38,000
Mathabhanga	3,900	31,000	34,900
Lalbazar	2,500	39,000	41,500
Dinhata	5,000	34,000	39,000
Cooch Behar	4,600	57,000	61,600
Tufangunj	2,000	38,000	40,000
Total ...	21,000	2,34,000	2,55,000

[10] The estimate is based on the figures of the re-settlement. Although the re-settlement operations were concerned only with the revenue-paying lands and temporarily settled estates, yet, as the lands not brought within their scope, form a very small fraction of the entire cultivated tract, the area dealt with by them may, for all practical purposes, be regarded as representing the whole of arable lands.

Time for commencement of ploughing.

Preparation of land.—Ploughing of land for the cultivation of *Bitri* commences in Agrahayan or middle of November when a fallow is concerned, and ordinarily in Pous or a month later. When the crop is to be grown on land previously occupied by mustard-seed and thus already partially loosened, the ploughing is taken up in Falgoon or middle of February.

The number of times a land has to be ploughed before it becomes fit for taking in the seed depends on the nature of the soil. An old fallow or an unbroken soil requires to be ploughed up to ten times. A good soil is prepared by being ploughed six times.

Mode of ploughing described.

The mode of ploughing the land is the same for all crops. Generally two ploughs are brought into action together, one following the other. Sometimes as many as 10 or 12 ploughs are worked at a time; it is then called ploughing in *gáta* or batch. A *gáta* is made up of the ploughs of the neighbourhood combined together for tilling the lands of the persons making up the *gáta* one after another. This means is resorted to when time is of importance, and work has to be finished soon. A single farmer also may sometimes possess as many as 10 or 12 ploughs.

Time required for preparing the land.

Furrows are at first raised along the length of the field. When the whole plot is once covered, transverse furrows are made breadthwise. The land is then harrowed, first lengthwise and then crosswise. By this means big clods are crushed and the jungles collected together. The refuge is then drawn and collected together with the *huchni* or rake and thrown upon the *ali*. The land is now known as ploughed *twice*. It is then left for 7 days for drying. During this interval the harrow is brought into action twice or thrice on every second or third day according to the circumstances of each case. After this period the land is again ploughed twice, harrowing forming a part of the operation as before. What clods now remain are well beaten with a *koorsi*, a small wooden hammer with a big handle, and the grass and jungle collected together are burnt. This sometimes takes up from 7 to 10 days, and occasionally even more, according to the engagements of the farmer. The land is then again ploughed and harrowed twice. For good land this suffices, and the soil is now fit for sowing. Lands of an inferior quality require to be ploughed up twice or four times more, an interval of 3 to 7 days being allowed to elapse between every two successive ploughings. When finished the soil becomes well powdered and soft. The whole operation takes up from 15 days to about three months.

How the seed is sown

Sowing—The seed, which is kept in *dalies* or bamboo baskets well dried, is then brought out and scattered over the prepared

surface broad cast. The land is then twice ploughed and harrowed so as to cover up the seed. The early crop is sown in the beginning of Magh or midde of January, and the late or ordinary crop in Falgoon and Chaitra or March and April. The sowing is seldom extended to Baishak or end of May, when there is the danger of the seed suffering from too much rain.

Quantity of seed and rate of sowing—The quantity of seed required for a Bigha of land is 14 *sers* of 80 *tolla* measurement. One man can sow one Bigha and do the necessary ploughing and harrowing in one day.

Germination—If the weather is dry the seed requires 9 or 10 days to shoot out. In moist weather it germinates in half the time.

Bida-giving and harrowing—Nothing has to be done for the next two weeks. If the soil is good the young plants give out four leaves (*chaw pata*) by this time. On bad soil they take 3 or even 4 weeks to come to this stage of maturity. Now is the time for *bida*-giving or thinning out the plants. *Bida* is a large wooden rake with iron teeth, and is drawn across the field like a plough. The process to be followed in *bida*-giving is the same as in ploughing. The *bida* has to be drawn first along and then across the field. The field has then to be harrowed twice, mercilessly crushing the young plants and tearing them to shreds. The uninitiated look with terror upon this scene of wilful destruction of a young field of paddy The process is, however, attended with immense good. By thinning out the plants and tearing the stems it gives space for each plant to form into a good cluster, and thus give good many ears. This process has to be continued twice or thrice according as there is more or less foreign growth along with the plants. The harrowing which takes place after the application of the *bida* is called applying the *jaon*.

Weeding—Shortly after the *bida*-giving, when the plants have grown up lustily and become mixed up with grass and other jungles, the field is weeded. This process has to be continued twice, and sometimes even thrice, if there be too much grass in the field.

Coming in ears—By the end of three months after germination the paddy begins to come in ears. Shortly before this time showers of rain do much good to the plants, enabling them to throw out healthy ears. Rain or high wind just after the appearance of the ears, however, serves to deteriorate the grain by washing or blowing away the productive grains of powder, and thereby creating an abundance of chaff.

Ripening—It takes from 20 to 30 days for the paddy to be mature and to ripen after its coming in ears. Light showers

serve to facilitate the ripening process. There is a native adage on the subject, which runs as follows :—

Shish birále bish din ;
Kát-te már-te trish din.

It requires 20 days (for the paddy to ripen) after coming in ears ; cutting and thrashing take up to the thirtieth day.

Mode of gathering the harvest

Harvesting –The paddy is gathered when it is fully ripe, and takes on a peculiar golden hue. Before the harvesting commences the paddy plants, which have hitherto generally remained erect, are pressed into an inclined position by means of a bamboo. A man takes hold of the rod, which is 10 or 12 feet long, in his hands, and stoops down to press the same on the stems of the paddy plants. He then walks on pressing the rod as he goes until the whole field is finished. The sickle is then applied a little below the ears, and a handful of stalks about 2 feet long is cut off at a time, and placed alongside the gatherer. Ten or twelve *muthas* or handfuls go to make up a sheaf, which is then tied down. When the day's work is done the sheaves are gathered and tied into bundles, about 4 or 5 feet in circumferance each. One man can cut in a day as much paddy as would go to make up three *bhars* or six bundles, and 7 to 8 such *bhars* would represent the produce of a Bigha. It thus takes more than 2 days for one man to gather the paddy grown on one Bigha of land.

Carrying the harvest home.

These bundles are carried home, two at a time, with the help of a *kora* or piece of spilt bamboo, about 6 feet long, with two pointed ends. These ends are thurst into the bundles one in each, and the carrier, placing the *kora* on his shoulder, walks home with a bundle of paddy hanging in front of, and another behind, him. This mode of carrying the harvest is tedious and engages much labour. Bullock cart is now largly used where practicable for bringing in the harvest.

Mode of separating the grains from the stalks.

When time is no question the bundles, after being taken home, are arranged in heaps in a corner of the *khokan* or courtyard. At the time of thrashing, the bundles are taken out of the heap, and arranged in a circle with the ears inside ; and the tying cords are taken off. The space enclosed is filled up with bundles similarly arranged. The whole is then called a *máḍá*. A full sized *máḍá* takes up 32 bundles of paddy, or the produce of full two Bighas. Four pairs of cattle are ordinarily employed on treading the *máḍá* arranged in two lines. The animals are tied to each other by the neck, and made to go round and round the *máḍá* until the seeds entirely fall off from the stalks. The bundles have now and then to be turned up so as to be effectively trodden. It takes about 4 or 5 hours for a *máḍá* to be finished in this way.

When the treading is over the cattle are let loose, and the straw is shaken and removed. Beneath the straw is found a layer of paddy mixed up with chaff and dirt. It is then collected and heaped at a place with the *kárálí*, and winnowed with the *kulá*.

The paddy is then exposed to the sun for a day or two, and is afterwards stored in *dalies* or baskets. Big farmers store their paddy in their *golas*, where it is kept on mats spread out for the purpose.

It takes two men and four pairs of cattle to do a full-sized *mádá* in one day. Half that agency, namely, one man and four cattle, can thus thrash the produce of one Bigha in one day.

Produce—The outturn of Bitri paddy per Bigha varies from 5 to 10 maunds. The average is about $7\frac{1}{2}$ maunds per Bigha. At the harvest time a maund is worth Rs 1-8. Later on the value goes up to Rs 2 in an ordinary year. The value of the gross produce of a Bigha thus varies from 10 to 15 Rupees.

Straw—The straw of Bitri paddy was not formerly gathered, much less preserved. In the interior it has even now no value. The straw is generally burnt on the field and serves as manure. In places near the town the straw on a Bigha of land is worth 8 annas.

Net produce of a Bigha—In the law courts of the State the cost of labour on agriculture including rent of the land is generally assessed at half the value of the gross produce. The gross produce of a Bigha of Bitri paddy is valued at Rs 10 to Rs 15 as shewn above, excluding the value of straw which is not generally preserved. The net income to be derived from a Bigha of Bitri land at the above rate varies from Rs. 5 to Rs. 7-8-0.

The total of produce and its value for the whole State—The extent of Bitri cultivation has already been roughly estimated to be 2,55,000 Bighas. The produce of the entire State therefore comes up to about 19,12,500 maunds. The value of this amounts to about $33\frac{1}{2}$ lacs of Rupees in round number. The figures for the different Parganas are given below :—

Name of Pargana.	Total produce in maunds.	Total value in Rupees.
Mekhligunj	2,61,750	4,58,063
Mathabhanga	2,85,000	4,98,750
Lalbazar	3,11,250	5,44,687
Dinhata	2,92,500	5,11,875
Cooch Behar	4,62,000	8,08,500
Tufangunj	3,00,000	5,25,000
Total ...	19,12,500	33,46,875

Bitri paddy supplies food for 4½ months of the year.

Bitri paddy as food The population of the State, as ascertained by the Census of 1891, is 5,78,868 souls. Deducting from this 75,664, which represents the number of children below 4 years of age, who do not either take rice or full meals, we get the number of persons who depend upon rice as food. This number is then 4,38,886. Of this, 4,20,000 persons may be supposed to inhabit the re-settled tracts of the State, with which the figures regarding the extent of cultivation as given above are concerned Now, allowing a maund of paddy yielding 25 to 30 *sers* of rice for one man's monthly consumption, the quantity of food required for the people for one month is 4,20,000 maunds. At this rate the produce of Bitri can supply food to the population for full 4½ months of the year, if no portion of it be exported.

B.—HAIMANTI PADDY.

Nature of soil required—Low land less sandy than the Bitri land is most suited to the cultivation of Haimanti or late paddy. This crop requires the nourishment of water all along after the seedlings have taken root. But drowning is injurious shortly after transplantation, and at any time afterwards if the plants remain under water for more than 3 or 4 days. Flat even land in a gradually depressed area, capable of retaining water, is thus the best land for Haimanti paddy.

How water kept in the field.

To facilitate the standing of water *alis* or short and narrow embankments are constructed around each plot of land. These serve the purpose of keeping the water within the plot, and also of shutting out an excess of water from the neighbouring lands. The area enclosed within these *alis* varies very largely; but on an average a plot may be taken to be one Bigha in measurement.

Haimanti grows on *awal* and *doium* lands.

The lands technically called *awal* and *doium*, first and second class, are generally used for the cultivation of this crop. As in the case of Bitri, the wohle extent of land available is not brought under cultivation every year, but about a fourth is kept as a fallow on an average. Although the Bitri paddy takes up a portion of these lands, the cultivation of Haimanti paddy is not affected thereby; for after the former has been reaped the land is again used for the cultivation of the latter. So that after deducting the fallow the remaining full three-fourths of *awal* and *doium* lands are taken up by the Haimanti crop of paddy. Although a portion of the *soium* or third class land is now and then used for this purpose, its extent is so small, and the outturn is so insignificant, that it may be safely left out of account. The total area of the cultivation of the late paddy may be roughly taken

to be 5¼ lacs of Bighas, or about twice the extent of the Bitri cultivation, as detailed below :— Extent of Haimanti cultivation over 5 lacs of Bighas.

Name of Pargana.	Extent of Haimanti cultivation in Bighas.
Mekhligunj	75,000
Mathabhanga	95,000
Lalbazar	60,000
Dinhata	1,20,000
Cooch Behar	1,15,000
Tufangunj	59,000
Total ...	5,24,000

Different modes of cultivation.—There are two methods of the cultivation of Haimanti paddy : one by at once sowing the seed broadcast like the *bitri*, and the other by first rearing the seedlings on a separate piece of land, and then transplanting them in the field. The first is called *bowa* or sown, and the second is called *rowa* or planted, cultivation. *Bowa* paddy is cultivated on lands bordering on *beels*, and very low lands which come under water very early and remain full of water during the rains. The plants grow rapidly and have their heads always out of water, unless suddenly drowned by exceptionally high and unexpected flood. *Rowa* paddy is grown on land that comes under water late, but where the water is never very deep. *Rowa* and *bowa*.

There are again two crops of the *rowa*. The first is transplanted on lands lower than the ordinary, which come under water in Jaistha and beginning of Ashar, or June. The second crop is raised on comparatively higher lands in Sravan and Bhadra, from the middle of July to the end of August, and occasionally in the first part of September also. Both these crops come in ears together, and are reaped at the same time. Two crops of *rowa*.

Preparation of bichhan or seedling.—The *bichhan* or seedling is of two kinds or rather of two periods : *Talooya* and *Newcha*. The first is used for the early *rowa* crop, and is raised in Falgoon and Chaitra, from the middle of February to the end of March. The second is meant for the late crop, and is reared in Jaistha and Ashar, from the middle of May to the end of June. In case of Seedlings of two kinds : *Talooya* and *Newcha*.

emergency, such as the destruction of seedlings by excessive drought or by floods, the seedlings are occasionally raised in July and August also.

Land required for raising seedlings.

The land necessary for the rearing of the seedlings should possess the qualities of the Bitri soil. Manure is sometimes used; in fact grounds near the homestead, which are generally well-manured by the deposit of cow-dung &c., are chosen for the nursery. The mode of preparation of land for the *Talooya bichhan* and sowing the seed is the same as of the cultivation of Bitri paddy. *Bida*-giving, harrowing and weeding have to be done for seedlings of this kind. Dry seed is used, and the quantity required per Bigha of nursing ground is about thirty-five *sers*. The land chosen for the *Newcha bichhan*, on the other hand, has to be worked up into the consistence of mud by repeated ploughings and harrowings. For this purpose the land is ploughed twice as in the case of Bitri, and left for 6 or 7 days for the grass and other vegetable growth to rot. The land is then ploughed twice more accompanied with the usual harrowing, and is brought into the desired muddy condition. Sometimes dry seed is sown broadcast, which remains on the surface without being covered up. More generally the seed is put into water in a vessel for two days previous to sowing, and is scattered on the land after a root has come out. This is called *Gaja bichhan*. The advantage of this process is that the seed at once takes root, and can not be washed away by rain, which at the time is rather frequent, and collected together to the detriment of even growth. The *Newcha* germinates in two or three days, while the *Talooya* takes the same time as the Bitri, namely, from 5 to 10 days. The *newcha* seedlings require no nursing after germination. They become fit for transplantaion within 20 to 30 days, while the *Talooya* takes about 2 months to attain that stage.

Mode of preparing land for transplantation of seedlings.

Transplantation.—Like the bed for the *Newcha* seedling, the land for transplantation has to be worked up into the consistence of mud by a similar process. As the land is made ready the seedlings are drawn out of the bed. This is done by taking hold of a number of heads of the plants with the hands and pulling them out. The whole is then struck against the right foot of the worker, and the muddy soil is shaken off from the roots. If the seedlings be very high, the tops are chopped off. In the case of *Talooya Bichhan*, which grows in clusters, the stems have to be broken asunder with the roots for the convenience of transplantation. The seedlings are not pulled out all at once; but this is done gradually according to the demand for them. This work is generally done by women, who, after drawing out the plants for 3

or 4 hours together, tie them into convenient bundles. A whole time labourer, however, can take out seedlings from one Bigha in 8 days for the *Talooya*, which includes the breaking up of the clusters of the plants, and in 4 days for the *Newcha*.

How seedlings are put in the field.

The *Talooya* seedlings are transplanted from 12 to 18 inches apart. A man, woman or a boy takes a handful of the seedlings in the left hand and clutches them a little over the roots. He then takes out 2 or 3 of the plants with the right hand and thrusts them about 2 inches into the mud. The process is repeated until the handful is exhausted. A fresh handful is then taken from the bundle which lies at a convenient distance, and transplantation goes on until the field is done.

The *Newcha* seedlings, which are transplanted a month or two later and have thus less time to form into big clusters, are put into the soil more thickly, the distance between two plants varying from 6 to 10 inches; seedlings transplanted late are as a rule put down very close to each other.

For late transplantation in August or September the transplanted *Talooya* is sometimes used. The *Talooya* seedlings which are put into the soil in July grow into middle sized clusters by the end of August. When a man is short of seedlings or wants to make the most of a small stock, he breaks asunder the greater portion of the cluster, leaving 2 or 3 plants standing in the old place. The plants thus obtained are then re-transplanted in a new field. These seedlings are called *Khasia Bichhan*. The crop derived from these seedlings is generally full, and has the least chance of having chaff.

Khasia Bichhan

The plants take about 5 or 6 days to take root, and appear almost withered and turn yellow in the meantime; but they soon recover and begin to throw out green, new leaves.

Management of field after transplantation.

Two days after the transplantation the water has to be partially, if not wholly, let out of the field by making gaps in the down *ali* or the embankment on the sloping side of the field. This *ali* keeps the water in check, and practically governs the water supply of the field. By customary law therefore it is in the possession of the owner of the plot on the head of the slope, if the neighbouring plots do not happen to belong to the same person. After the plants have become sufficiently firm, and have put forth new leaves, and the soil has to some extent dried up, the gaps are closed, and the farmer becomes anxious to have his field refilled with water.

Rate of transplantation.—One man can do the transplanting on a Bigha of land in 2 days. The rate is the same for both *Talooya*

and *Newcha* seedlings. The *talooya* plants are put into the field at the commencement of the rains when the soil is not yet fully moistened and perfectly softened, and naturally employs more labour than the *newcha* plants do in a very soft mud in the middle of the rains. So that although the one has to be more thinly transplanted than the other, the outturn of work becomes practically the same in both cases.

One Bigha of *talooya* seedlings generally raises plants which can cover 10 Bighas when transplanted, while the same quantity of *newcha* plants can cover only 5 or 6 Bighas. For late transplantations, however, the result is even still meagre, one Bigha of seedlings being sometimes scarcely sufficient even for 5 Bighas.

Coming in ears and ripening.—The plants come in ears generally in Kartik or middle of October, no matter whether the seedlings be *talooya* or *newcha*. The paddy becomes ripe within two months after coming in ears, ordinarily in Agrahayan and Pous or December and January.

Cutting and thrashing.—There is no difference in the process of reaping and thrashing between the Bitri and the Haimanti crop. The ears are cut off with a portion of the straw or stem, tied into bundles, carried home and then trodden and winnowed in the same way as in the case of the Bitri crop.

Produce.—The outturn of Haimanti paddy is less than that of Bitri, and varies from 4 to 8 maunds a Bigha. The average is about 6 maunds. A bumper crop gives about 10 maunds. At harvest time the value of a maund of paddy is Rs. 1-8, and goes up to Rs. 2 and above afterwards.

Straw.—The straw of the Haimanti paddy is in demand, and is preserved. It is worth a rupee per Bigha.

Cultivator's profit.—The gross earning of a farmer from out of a Bigha of Haimanti land varies from Rs. 10 to Rs. 16. The average is Rs. 12. Leaving out half of the sum for cost of labourer, value of seed, rent of land &c., a man makes a net profit of about Rs. 6 per Bigha of Haimanti land.

Total produce and its value for the whole State.—The extent of Haimanti cultivation being 5 lacs and 24 thousand Bighas, and the outturn of a Bigha 6 maunds, the produce of the entire State comes up to 31,44,000 maunds. The value of this quantity of paddy is about 55 lacs of rupees in an ordinary year. The following

are the figures for the produce and value of this crop for the different Parganas :—

Name of Pargana.	Produce in maunds.	Value in rupees.
Mekhligunj	4,50,000	7,87,500
Mathabhanga	5,70,000	9,97,500
Lalbazar	3,60,000	6,30,000
Dinhata	7,20,000	12,60,000
Cooch Behar	6,90,000	12,07,500
Tufangunj	3,54,000	6,19,500
Total ...	31,44,000	55,02,000

Haimanti paddy can feed people for 7½ months of the year.

Haimanti paddy as food.—Taking the population subsisting upon rice to be 4,20,000, as calculated in another place, and the quantity of paddy required for the monthly consumption of one person to be one maund, the produce of Haimanti can feed the people of the country for 7½ months.

C.—Tobacco.

Tobacco soil is sandy but well manured.

Kind of soil required.—Tobacco grows on very poor soil. The most sandy soil, which is not fit for any other crop, will, if properly manured, yield good tobacco. To turn a bad soil into a tolerably good tobacco field, it requires the thorough manuring of at least a couple of years. The dung and urine of the buffalo are the best manure for this purpose. Cow-dung is subsequently used after the land has been partially cultured.

Of the *Chaharam* kind.

The tobacco land is ordinarily of the *Chaharam* kind but very highly enriched with manuring. In the course of the re-settlement operations tobacco lands were separately classified and brought under three grades according to the richness of the soil. Potato is generally grown on this soil jointly with tobacco.

No fallow.

The whole of tobacco lands is brought under cultivation every year, as fresh manuring does away with the necessity for keeping a fallow.

Extent of cultivation.

The area under tobacco cultivation in the State is 105,898 Bighas, or about 35,000 acres, and forms a little above 7 per cent of the cultivated, and 5·2 per cent of the total assessed, area. The

extent of the best sort of tobacco soil is the largest in Pargana Lalbazar, where the area under cultivation is also extensive. The subjoined table shows the areas under tobacco in the different Parganas :—

Name of Pargana	1st Class tobacco in Bighas.	2nd Class tobacco in Bighas.	3rd Class tobacco in Bighas.	Total area in Bighas.
Mekhligunj	1,474	5,220	5,097	11,791
Mathabhanga	7,477	15,276	8,624	31,377
Lalbazar	17,935	8,695	3,080	29,710
Dinhata	2,867	5,484	3,640	11,991
Cooch Behar...	3,364	7,545	9,035	19,944
Tufangunj	36	107	942	1,085
Total ...	33,153	42,327	30,418	105,898

Beds for seedlings.

Rearing of seedlings.—The seedlings are reared on beds about 6 inches raised from the ground, with surface drains around them. The soil is profusely manured with old cow-dung, 200 to 300 maunds of the manure being required for every Bigha of land. The soil is made loose with the spade, and the manure is mixed with it. The seed is sown in the beginning of Bhadra or middle of August, at the rate of 5 *sers* per Bigha. The seed is covered up with the hand, and rotten straw or thatching grass is strewn on the bed to prevent the seed from being washed off or collected together by rain. The seed sprouts out in about a week. When the seedlings are about an inch high, and have given out what is called *Indur Kania* or mouse-eared leaves (leaves of the size of the ear of a mouse), the grassy growth is carefully pulled out with one hand, while the other gently presses at the root of the neighbouring plant. When there is a cessation of rain, and the plants have grown *Tàkà patiya*, or have put forth leaves of the size of a rupee, and they take about 2 weeks to attain this stage of growth, they are regularly watered in the morning. If there be too much rain, the seedlings are in danger of being uprooted, and removeable sheds have to be put up on the beds by way of protection against this accident. With proper nursing the seedlings become fit for transplantation in about 4 weeks.

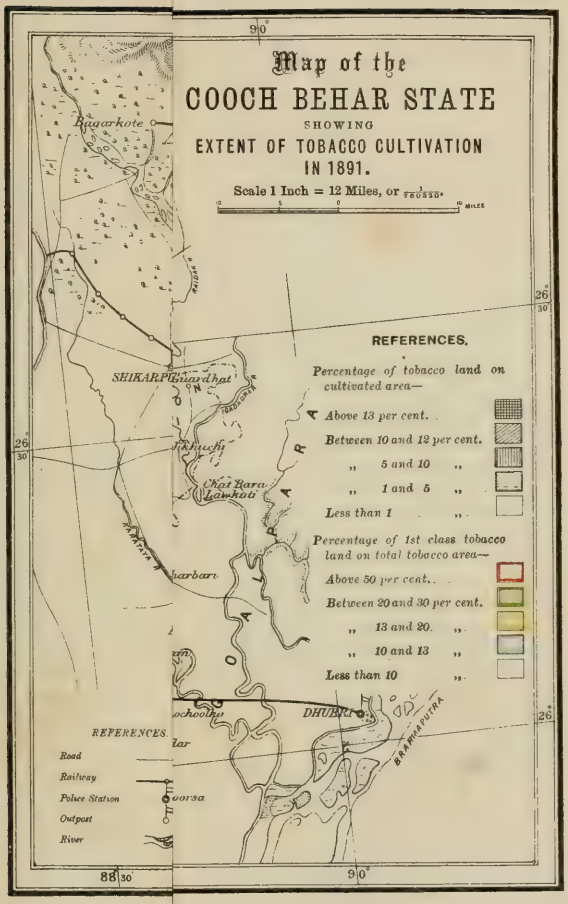
Quantity of seed per Bigha.

Weeding.

Watering.

Ploughing commences in Bhadra.

Preparation of land.—Ploughing of land for tobacco commences in Bhadra or middle of August. Cow-dung is put on the soil all the year round. A land has to be ploughed 10, 12 or even 16 times before it becomes fit for taking in the plants. The land is made smooth by repeated harrowing. It is then marked out in rows 3 feet apart, both lengthwise and crosswise. When finished



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Map of the
COOCH BEHAR STATE
SHOWING
EXTENT OF TOBACCO CULTIVATION
IN 1891.
Scale 1 Inch = 12 Miles, or 1/760320
REFERENCES.
Percentage of tobacco land on cultivated area—
Above 13 per cent.
Between 10 and 12 per cent.
" 5 and 10 "
" 1 and 5 "
Less than 1 "
Percentage of 1st class tobacco land on total tobacco area—
Above 50 per cent.
Between 20 and 30 per cent.
" 13 and 20 "
" 10 and 13 "
Less than 10 "
REFERENCES
Road
Railway
Police Station
Outpost
River
COOCH BEHAR
DINHATA
TUFANGANJ
MEKHLIGANJ
MATHABHANGA
SITALKUCHI
DIMLAH
HALDIBARI
SHIKARPUR
JULPAIGURI
MAINAGURI
DEVIGUNGE
DHUBRI
ALIPUR
RAJABHATKHUWAH
PILIBARI
PAMRARI
RAXA
Bhotmari
Kakina
Abstinari
Bhitarkuta
Bashpukhuri
Lalmonirhat
Patakeratkuthi
Dakuneerkuta
Baseerchara
Ranishbandar
Bamanhat
Bahabhanga
Fakiriahat
Kathgaon
Bakaigachcha
Mahishkhuchi
Kathalbari
Khoramara
Kharbari
Mogalhat
Bansgaon
Sukhani
Bhawaiya
Bhatkhawa
Sukhani
Bhawaiya
Bhatkhawa
Sukhani
Bhawaiya
Bhatkhawa

the field looks like a big chess-board, divided into small squares all over it. This preparation of land takes from 5 to 8 weeks. Land is prepared in eight weeks.

Transplantation.—By the end of Aswin or beginning of October the transplantation begins. The seedlings are taken out from the bed, and carried in a bamboo basket to the field, which lies around and close to the farmer's dwelling. A hole is made with a *patsoon* at each intersection of the rows already marked out, and a plant is put into the same about 2 inches into the earth, and the gap closed by gently pressing the soil around. The transplantation is made in the afternoon so that the seedlings may be immediately nourished by the dews and coolness of the night. Four men can transplant one Bigha of land in one afternoon. The plants take root in 3 days, the bigger leaves often getting scorched in the meantime. Time for beginning. Process and rate of transplantation.

Nursing of the plants.—Four or five days after the plants have been put in the field furrows are made between the rows by drawing a plough with the hands. At first single furrows are cut. As the season advances new furrows are raised lengthwise, crosswise and diagonally. This has the effect of stirring up and drying the surface soil, and also of mixing the manure with the earth, which is now freely deposited in the field, one basketful or about 5 *sers* after every second or third plant. The furrows are not made all at once, but an interval of 2 or 3 days is allowed between every two furrowings. Mode of nursing.

About one month after transplantation the dry and unhealthy first leaves, which are called *kanpata*, are removed. These are of no use and are thrown away. Again a month or so later the twig or head of the plant is broken. At this time some leaves near the ground are also taken away, and only 8 or 10 leaves are left on the plant. The lower leaves thus taken away are called *bishpata*. These are gathered, and are generally used for dyeing. The upper leaves, which are retained, utilise all the moisture and nourishment that the soil can supply, and grow rapidly. Shoots now and then come out through the stem, but these are regularly broken at intervals. If the atmosphere be very dry, watering is found useful at this stage. But the people do not always take so much trouble, and the watering of tobacco is not common. The leaves become mature and fit for gathering about two months after. When they become mature they look yellowish, and have pale whitish spots all over. Breaking of *kan-pata*, twigs, and *bish-pata*. Maturity of the leaves.

Diseases of tobacco.—When the leaves approach maturity they sometimes get wrinkled and withered, and the growth of the plant is gradually checked until it dies. This the people called *Jain dhara* or to be subject to *jain*. This disease proves *Jain*.

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Its remedy.

infectious to some extent. The only remedy to it is to remove the leaf or leaves at the first appearance of the symptoms; and if that does not check the disease, to uproot the plant and take out the roots. The damage owing to *jain* is, however, never very great, and the people give no serious thought to it.

Insect.

A kind of insect attacks the root of the plant, generally when it is young. This is manifested by the drooping of the leaves. This insect infests potato also, which is for the most part grown in the same field symultaneously with tobacco.

How it is destroyed.

The people, who do not much care for this damage also, know of only one way of destroying the insects, and this is done in the following way: Dry stalks of jute, called *sinná* in this country, are stuck into the field here and there, and the ends, which point towards the sky, are set fire to in the night. A night-bird, invited by the light, comes to the field and eats up the insects, which, it is said, come out of the ground in the night.

Bhulki-flower.

The *bhulki*-flower is another pest of tobacco. It is a sort of parasite which takes its growth on one of the main roots of the plant, and shoots up generally in a single stalk, as an independent plant. It then flowers, both the stem and the flowers being of a light purple colour. When pressed they smell like young tobacco leaves. The *bhulki* sucks the sap of the tobacco plant, and makes it prematurely ripe. The crop is not, however, totally destroyed; it is only partially deteriorated, the leaves losing in weight and flavour. It is a fortunate circumstance that this parasite grows when the plant is almost full grown, and it is near the time for lopping the twig. The growth of the pest can be checked only by weeding. The manure of *khár*, which grows in tanks and in the beds of dead rivers, also counteracts the tendency of the soil to help this parasitic growth. As, however, the injury done by the *bhulki*-flower is never very great, these remedies are not largely applied.

The mode of checking its growth.

It is a food for buffalo.

The *bhulki* is not peculiar to tobacco alone; it also grows on lands on which the brinjal and rape-seed are cultivated. It is called *thokora* in Behar and the North-West Provinces, and is an excellent food for cattle, especially buffaloes.

Time for gathering.

Gathering of leaves.—The gathering commences generally at the end of Falgoon or beginning of March. The leaves are cut touching the stem, invariably in the morning, and then spread out in the field for a little drying or rather softening in the sun. In the afternoon the leaves are collected and made into *jhokas* or bunches, with four or five leaves to each *jhoka*. They are then left on the field. When the leaves have been a little cooled by the evening dew, the

The process.

bunches are taken home, and hung up in rows in a closed room shut out from exposure and wind. The heat of the sun and the dry west wind of the season complete the drying process.

Two men can gather the produce of a Bigha in one day. Rate.

Storing.—In the beginning of Jaistha or middle of May, when the east wind laden with moisture begins to blow, and the leaves become a little softened and are out of danger of being broken by handling, the bunches are taken down and tied into bundles, generally containing 15 or 16 of the sheaves, and weighing from 2 to 3 *sers*. The weight, however, depends on the quality of the tobacco, the best sort giving the greatest weight. The bundles are then collected together, and made into *gádis* or stacks of a circular shape, with the stems of the leaves remaining on the outer side of the stack. A *gádi* ordinarily contains from 50 to 60 maunds of tobacco. Mode of storing.

Produce and value.—The average produce of a Bigha is 5 maunds. The value per maund varies from Rs. 4 to Rs. 6. The average is Rs. 5. A half of this may be calculated as the cost of production. The net income derived from a Bigha is Rs. 12-8. Produce per Bigha.

Total of produce and value, and the cultivator's net profit.—For all practical purposes 1,05,000 Bighas may be taken as the annual extent of the cultivation of tobacco. At this rate the gross produce would be a little above 5 lacs of maunds, and the gross value, about 26 lacs of rupees, which represents the amount of cash annually obtained by the people from this crop. Deducting a half of this for cost of cultivation the net income derived by the farmer is 13 lacs of rupees. The figures for the different Parganas are given below :— Extent of tobacco cultivation, and total of produce.

Name of Pargana.	Produce of tobacco in maunds.	Value in Rupees.	Cultivator's net profit in Rupees.
Mekhligunj	55,000	2,75,000	1,37,500
Mathabhanga	1,55,000	7,75,000	3,87,500
Lalbazar	1,45,000	7,25,000	3,62,500
Dinhata	60,000	3,00,000	1,50,000
Cooch Behar	1,00,000	5,00,000	2,50,000
Tufangunj	5,000	25,000	12,500
Total ...	5,20,000	26,00,000	13,00,000

Tufangunj produces very little tobacco. What is grown here is chiefly meant for home consumption. As far as trade is concerned the return for this Pargana could as well remain blank.

D.—Jute.

Sandy like Bitri soil

Nature of the soil required.—The soil required for jute is the same as for Bitri, namely, high with a good proportion of sand. The land, however, requires thorough manuring, the manure used being old cow-dung, the quantity per Bigha varying from 100 to 200 maunds according to the nature of the soil. Jute land generally comes under the classes denominated *Soium* and *Chaharam*. The extent of cultivation of jute varies in the different Parganas. It is the largest in Dinhata and Mekhligunj, and the smallest in Tufangunj. The cultivation seems to be annually extending. The area taken up by jute is smaller than that of Bitri paddy, and may be roughly estimated at about a fourth of the latter, or about 65,000 Bighas in all. The cultivation of jute entails more labour than in the case of early paddy, requires water in the vicinity for steeping the crop, and is also more expensive, necessitating, as it does, the manuring of the land. It can not thus be as extensive as that of Bitri.

Extent of jute cultivation.

The total of the area under jute for the whole State is about 65,000 Bighas as noted above, and is detailed below :—

Name of Pargana.				Extent of jute-cultivation in Bighas
Mekhligunj	...	...	...	13,000
Mathabhanga	...	...	...	10,000
Lalbazar ...	...	...	...	9,000
Dinhata ...	...	...	...	14,000
Cooch Behar	...	...	...	12,000
Tufangunj...	...	...	...	7,000
			Total ...	65,000

Time for beginning.

Preparation of land.—The ploughing of land is commenced in March when the cultivator has some respite in the cultivation of Bitri. The land requires to be ploughed 10 or 12 times and manured at intervals. About a month is taken up for the preparation of land.

How seed gathered and stored.

Sowing.—The seed requires to be especially gathered. When jute is cut, a small patch of land is left with standing plants for the seed to ripen, until the plants are quite withered. The ends of the plants containing the seed-pods are then gathered, and the seed is separated by thrashing. The seed is then dried in the sun and stored, generally in a *bosh* or gourd-shell.

When the surface soil has a little dried after the last ploughing, the seed is scattered broadcast, first length-wise, and then cross-wise. The land is then thoroughly harrowed without being ploughed. The sowing is finished by the middle of Byshak or the end of April. One *ser* of seed is sufficient for a Bigha of land. One *ser* of seed per Bigha.

Germination and nursing.—The seed germinates after 3 days. When the seedlings are 10 or 12 days old, the *bida* is drawn through them twice, first along and then across the field. No harrowing or giving of *Jaon* is necessary, although some people have recourse to this operation, as it clears the land of all weeds. This is done when the plants are very young. Four or five days after *bida*-giving the field is weeded once. If there be too much jungle, a second weeding, although very rarely, becomes necessary. Four men can weed one Bigha of land in one day.

Cutting and steeping.—The plants become mature in the beginning of Bhadra. There is a saying among the people that jute ripens when it gets the *Sing-jhari* of the Sankranti of Sravan, or the shower of the last day of Sravan, which happens to fall in the middle of August. The reaping commences by the end of August and continues through the whole of September, and a part of October also. Jute is of two kinds,—*Koshta* and *Meshta*. The *Koshta* plants are smaller and more slender than the *Meshta* plants. The former sometimes grow up to the height of 10 feet, while the latter ordinarily attain 15 feet. The plants are cut with a sickle. When a *hata*, or as many as can be grasped with one hand, has been cut, the ends are chopped off, and the plants are tied into a bundle at the end with a few slender branches or shoots twisted together. Ten to twelve of the *koshta* plant and 7 to 8 of *meshta* generally go to make up a bundle. When a sufficient number of these bundles have been got ready, a *bojhá*, or a bigger bundle, is made of a size that can be carried by a man on his shoulder. Four men can reap one Bigha in one day. The contents of a Bigha make up from 80 to 100 *bojhás* or big bundles. Time for reaping. Two varieties of jute. Rate of gathering.

The bundles are then carried by men to reservoirs of water selected for steeping the crop in. Bullock-cart is also used for this purpose when the distance of the waters from the field is great. Still water, which becomes heated soon, is necessary for the steeping; flowing water is useless for this purpose. Ditches and mud-holes and closed beds of rivers are generally used for the steeping of jute.

The bundles are arranged in the water in single file in *jáys* or heaps, ordinarily containing twenty, and some jute branches are scattered on them. During the first three days the upper portion of *jáy* remains above water. On the fourth day the surface of the *jáy* is brought to the level of the water by placing on it plantain trees, Mode of steeping.

or turfs and clods of earth. The *jág* takes from 12 to 14 days to rot and become fit for washing.

Washing.—When the *jag* is fit for washing the weights are taken out, and it is broken up. The bundles are untied one by one and the *hátás* or smaller bundles are gradually separated.

Mode of washing.

The washer takes his stand knee-deep in water, and, seizing a *hátá* of jute by the end with both the hands, strikes it on the water 4 or 5 times. By this means all the dirts and the rotten outer barks fall off from the plants, and the fibres come out clear and white. About two feet of the stems are then broken by pressing them on the knee. The washer then seizes the bundle at the place where the wood has been broken, and shakes the whole into the water until the shorter sticks fall off. The bundle is then laid flat on the water, and by slow jerks the fibres are drawn out, the washer twisting them about his hand as they are detached from the stems.

The fibres are then folded and the water is pressed out by twisting. In this way a man can wash 20 bundles or one *jág* a day.

Drying.—The fibres are then taken home, the folds are extended and hung up in rows on bamboo stages for drying. Jute ordinarily dries by being exposed to the sun for one day; but it is generally given two days' sunning, owing to a superstitious belief that the structure in which jute dried in one day is used draws the lightning.

Storing.—When quite dry jute is twisted into *moras* or bundles, ordinarily containing 4 to 5 seers. These are then heaped together when the quantity is large.

Averages for a Bigha.

Outturn and value.—The outturn of a Bigha of jute field varies from 4 to 6 maunds, giving an average of 5 maunds. The value per maund of jute ranges between Rs. 3 and Rs. 5. The average is Rs. 4.

Total of produce and its value for the whole State.—The total produce of jute amounts to about 3¼ lacs of maunds and its value above 13 lacs of rupees. The net income of the cultivator is about 6½ lacs of Rupees. The figures for the different Parganas are given below :—

Name of Pargana.	Produce in maunds.	Value in Rupees.	Cultivator's net income in Rupees.
Mekhligunj	65000,	2,60,000	1,30,000
Mathabhanga	50,000	2,00,000	1,00,000
Lalbazar	45,000	1,80,000	90,000
Dinhata	70,000	2,80,000	1,40,000
Cooch Behar	60,000	2,40,000	1,20,000
Tufangunj	35,000	1,40,000	70,000
Total ...	3,25,000	13,00,000	6,50,000

E.—Mustard-Seed.

Nature of soil required.—Mustard-seed is sown on high Bitri land of the classes *Soium* and *Chaharam*. Except in the new clearances the soil is manured with the old cow-dung and oil-cake dust.

Cultivation.—Preparation of land commences in Aswin or middle of September. The land does not require high ploughing, tilling six times including the covering up of the seed being often sufficient. After ploughing the field twice cow-dung is placed in small heaps here and there, and oil-cake dust is scattered over the land. The land is then ploughed twice more, and harrowed as usual. Occasionally this operation has to be repeated once more before the soil becomes fit for sowing. Time for beginning. Manure

The quantity of seed required per Bigha is two *sers*. It is sown broadcast as in the case of paddy. A man can do this in less than an hour. The month of Kartic or middle of October is the time for sowing. Seed two *sers* per Bigha.

The seed germinates in 3 or 4 days. The plants flower when one month old. The pods come out ten days after. The seeds take about two months to be mature and ripe. Germination, flowering and ripening.

The crop is gathered in Magh and Falgoon or February and March. The plants are bodily uprooted. The gatherer takes 3 days to finish a Bigha.

The thrashing or treading is done in *maras* as in the case of paddy, the produce of two Bighas often going to make up a *mara*. When the seeds fall off they are passed through a large coarse bamboo sieve, which serves to separate the chaff from the grains. The grains are then dried in the sun and stored. Thrashing

Outturn and value.—The produce per Bigha varies from one to three maunds. The value of mustard-seed ranges between Rs. 3 and Rs. 5 per maund.

The straw.—The dry plants of mustard-seed are used as fuel. They are also burnt down to ashes with which the people bleach their cloths by boiling with hot water.

Cultivator's profit.—The gross produce of a Bigha of mustard-seed is 1½ maunds of the value of Rs. 6. Deducting half of this for cost of cultivation, the net profit of the cultivator is Rs. 3 per Bigha. Cultivator's net profit per Bigha.

Total produce and its value for the whole State.—Mustard-seed takes up about half-anna or a thirty-second part of the cultivated area, which gives nearly 40,000 Bighas for the whole State. The

proportion of the area under this crop is not uniform everywhere; it is the largest in Tufangunj and the smallest in Mekhligunj and Lalbazar. The total produce is roughly estimated at 60,000 maunds, valued at Rs. 2,40, 000. The details for the different Parganas are given below:—

Name of Pargana.	Extent of cultivation in Bighas.	Total produce in maunds	Total value in Rupees.
Mekhligunj	3,000	4,500	18,000
Mathabhanga	4,000	6,000	24,000
Lalbazar	3,000	4,500	18,000
Dinhata	5,000	7,500	30,000
Cooch Behar	13,000	19,500	78,000
Tufangunj	12,000	18,000	72,000
Total	40,000	60,000	2,40,000

CHAPTER VIII.

PRICES OF CHIEF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

Prices gradually rising.

With the opening up of the country by roads and railways, and the facility thus afforded to the export-trade, the prices of food-grains are gradually rising. In the time of the old Maharajas food-staff was extremely cheap, probably because what was grown in the country remained in it, and few people had any occasion to buy food. In 1867 Mr. Smith, Deputy Commissioner, remarked as follows in the Annual Administration Report:—

Fluctuations of the prices of rice.

"Coarse cleaned rice is now selling at Rs. $2\frac{1}{2}$ per maund. This kind of rice twenty-five years ago is said to have been sold at two maunds for the rupee, and in one of Mr. Ahmuty's letters I observe it is noted that rice was $3\frac{1}{2}$ maunds to the rupee."

Mr. Ahmuty was Commissioner of Cooch Behar during the minority of Maharaja Harendra Narayan, from 1797 to 1801. The price of paddy was thus $4\frac{1}{2}$ annas per maund in the beginning, and 8 annas per maund in the middle, of the nineteenth century. At its close it came up to Rs. 4 a maund.

Formerly, mustard-oil was very cheap. It sold at six *sers* a rupee in Maharaja Narendra Narayan's time. Even in the beginning of the British administration of the State during the minority of the present ruler, a rupee could buy four *sers* of oil. The price now is $2\frac{1}{4}$ *sers* a rupee. Prices of oil.

There has been an increase in the price of other articles also. The table given below shows the variation of the prices of different articles during the last four decades. It will be observed that every decade shows a marked increase of the price over its predecessor :— Averages of the prices.

Name of Article.	Average price per maund for the decade ending.								Price per maund in 1900.	
	1870		1880		1890		1900			
	Rs.	As.	Rs	As	Rs.	As.	Rs.	As.	Rs.	As.
Paddy	0	12	...		...		...		1	12
Common rice	1	4	1	4	2	4	3	9	4	0
Tobacco	6	0	4	0	6	0	9	0	10	0
Jute	4	8	3	8	3	2	4	0	5	0
Mustard-seed	3	0	2	10	3	0	4	0	5	0
Mustard-oil	...		10	2	10	12	12	12	18	0

CHAPTER IX.

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

In 1788, Messieurs Mercer and Chauvet, Special Commissioners appointed by British Government to enquire into the affairs of Cooch Behar, put down the export and import of the country at the following figures :— Condition of trade in 1788

EXPORT.

	Maunds.
Rice	1,00,000
Tobacco	40,000
Mustard-seed	10,000
Opium	Small quantity.

IMPORT.

	Maunds.
Salt	10,000
Jaggery	3,000
Iron	Small quantity.

The commissioners do not give the value of this export and import. They considered the amount of export somewhat exaggerated. They found few or no manufacture carried on in the country.

In 1872.

Dr. Hunter in his Statistical Account of Cooch Behar (1872) has the following on this subject :—

"Nearly all the commerce of the State, except such as is carried on in the weekly markets, is in the hands of foreign merchants, chiefly Marwaris from Bikanir, who bring more energy and enterprise to the work than the Cooch Beharis usually possess. The chief exports from the State are tobacco, jute, mustard-seed, and mustard-oil ; and the principal imports are piece-goods, salt, brass and copper utensils, sugar, molasses, pulses of sorts, spices, cocoa-nuts, betel-nuts, beads, dried fish, etc. The principal seats of commerce are the town of Cooch Behar, and the villages of Balarampur, Chaora, Gobrachhara, Dewangunj, Changrabandha, and Lawkuthi. The only local manufactures which form an article of trade with other districts are *endi* or *eri* cloth, *mekhli* cloth and mustard-oil. The native merchants estimate the exports at about £ 150,000 per annum, and the imports at £ 90,000 per annum, as follows :—

Principal seats of commerce.

Exports—tobacco, £ 70,000 ; jute, £ 40,000 ; mustard-seed and oil, £ 20,000 ; rice, £ 10,000 ; miscellaneous, £ 10,000 ; total value of exports, £ 150,000.

Imports—cloth, £ 50,000 ; salt, £ 15,000 ; other articles, £ 25,000 ; total value of imports, £ 90,000. The balance of trade would thus be in favour of the State ; and the Deputy-Commissioner, judging from the increased prosperity of the people, is of opinion that a slight accumulation of coin is going on." [11]

Extent of trade in 1884.

Mr. Dalton, Deputy-Commissioner of Cooch Behar, writes as follows in 1884 :—

"Although we have no statistics from which I could institute any comparison between the amount or value of the export and import trade of the State now and in 1864, I can safely assert that as regards trade the increasing difficulty in keeping our roads in repair tells its own tale. In 1872, a rough estimate was made of export and import, when the exports were valued at Rs. 13,20,000, and the imports at Rs. 9,00,000. Since that time jute trade has, thanks to the Nothern Bengal Railway, more than doubled itself. As regards tobacco the extension has not been so marked. In 1872, the value of tobacco exported was estimated at seven lacs of rupees. In 1876, the amount stated to have been exported was

[11] Hunter's Statistical Account of Bengal, Vol X, pages 398-99.

$2\frac{1}{2}$ lacs of maunds, which, putting the tobacco at four rupees a maund, which is a low average, would make the value Rs. 10,00,000."[11]

How trade is carried on now.

The country, as has fully appeared, exports its produce of agriculture. The producer, however, does not fully share in the profit which the exporter pays for the commodities. He ordinarily sells his goods at the local market-rates, which are very often low, to a class of middle-men or brokers called *paikars*, and the latter go up to the exporting firms of merchants, and receive all the advantage of the rates offered by them. The cultivator in most cases sells the produce in advance, at a nominal price when in need, and sometimes long before the crops come to be in the field. The merchants who have made the advance take hold of the crop when it is harvested, and make a large profit even at the local market-rate, over and above the interest payable for the money. This system is called *mooli* or *dádan*. Jute, tobacco and mustard-seed are usually sold under this system.

Paikars.

The *paikars*, who are all local men, purchase articles from the cultivator, and sell these off to the merchants. Very often they are petty traders, quite unconnected with the producers and only make some money while the article is in transit from the producer to the exporter. Sometimes the *paikar* happens to be the cultivator himself, who sells his own crop as also those of his neighbours to the merchants. This local trade is mostly carried on in the bi-weekly markets called *háts*. Generally, the *paikar* makes a profit which may be calculated at full 25 per cent of the rates paid by the exporting firms.

Trading merchants.

As noticed in 1872, nearly all the commerce is still in the hands of foreigners, chiefly Marwaris. There are also some European firms at Haldibari and Chawrahat, both by the side of the railway. With the spread of the railway communication European merchants are opening business in other parts of the State also. Native enterprise is at a discount. The Cooch Beharis, like the Bengalis of other parts of the country, can but ill afford to compete with the European traders, and are bound to fail. This is borne out by the gradual falling off of the river-traffic, which was almost entirely in the hands of the Bengalis, and the increase of the railway-traffic. The bridging of the navigable rivers very often acts as a deterrent to country boat traffic, and this is being gradually marked in this State also.

Decrease of boat traffic.

Before the opening of railways, nearly the whole of both inward and outward traffic used to be carried on by country-boats

[11] Retrospective Sketch of the Government Administration of Cooch Behar during the minority of Maharaja Nripendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur, para 40.

The railways have considerably diverted the traffic from the rivers, and have almost monopolised the export of jute. Tobacco, mustard-seed, mustard-oil and oil-cake are, however, still largely sent down by boats. Tobacco is very rarely exported by railway, as frequent trans-shipments damage the leaves, and deteriorate the quality.

Pricipal seats of commerce at present.

The principal seats of commerce are the town of Cooch Behar, the sub-divisional stations, and the important village Bunders. They have already been noticed in another place.[12] Jute, which is now grown all over the State, and paddy are exported from every part of the country. Tobacco is mostly sent down from the marts of Mekhligunj, Mathabhanga, and the western part of the Dinhata sub-division, and also from the town of Cooch Behar. The Bunders of the Tufangunj sub-division largely export mustard-seed and mustard-oil. The chief jute-exporting stations are Haldibari, Changrabandha, Chawrahat, Mathabhanga, and the town of Cooch Behar ; the principal tobacco centres are Mekhligunj, Mathabhanga, Shibpur Bawra, Gosanimari, and Chawrahat ; and the principal marts dealing in mustard-seed and mustard-oil are Balarampur, Tufangunj, Ghoramara, Natabari, Ambari, Buxigunj and Mahishkhuchi.

No statistics about trade.

In the absence of statistics the amount and value of the export and import trades of the country can not be categorically stated. With the opening up of the country by roads and railways it is but natural to expect that both of them are gradually expanding. The food-grains cultivated in the country are more than what can be consumed by the people, and a large import of rice has been going on from sometime past. It is therefore certain that a considerable portion of the paddy grown in the State is exported from the country. Tobacco, jute, and mustard-seed are grown chiefly for export The quantity and value of these have been given in a foregoing chapter.[13] Leaving a fair margin for local consumption, the extent of the export trade in these articles may be roughly estimated as follows :—

Rough estimate of trade in jute, tobacco and mustard-seed.

NAME OF ARTICLE.	EXTENT OF EXPORT.	
	Amount.	Value.
	Mds.	Rs.
Tobacco	4,00,000	20,00,000
Jute	3,00,000	12,00,000
Mustard-seed	25,000	1,00,000
Total	7,25,000	33,00,000

[12] Vide *ante*, pages 61—72.
[13] Vide *ante*, pages 181—190.

CHAPTER X.

CAPITAL AND INTEREST.

What becomes of the people's savings.

Of the savings made by the people, a portion is spent in making ornaments, a part is hoarded, but much is employed as capital in trade. The well-to-do people lend money to their neighbours and tenants on interest. There are different systems of loan prevalent in the country. The following deserve special notice :—

Different kinds of loan.

(1). Ordinary loan, under which money is lent for interest in cash, with or without the mortgage of landed property. The rate of interest ordinarily varies from 12 to 37½ per cent per annum. In petty advances it is the usual practice to charge interest at 6 *pies* per rupee per *mensem*. In large loans 6 to 9 percent per *annum* is the common rate. The law of the State, however, does not allow interest at more than 3 *pies* per rupee per *mensem*, which gives 18¾ per cent per *annum*, whatever might be the rate agreed upon by the parties.

(2). *Muli* loan, under which the debtor promises repayment in crops, the amount of which in *maunds* is agreed upon at the time of creation of the loan. If the debtor defaults he is liable to pay the value of the crop at the market-rate of the time when repayment is due. This system is greatly advantageous to the creditor, as under it crops are purchased at almost a nominal price, and, when there is a default, the debtor has to pay in sums out of all proportion to the money advanced.

(3). *Bhutáli* loan, which is given to the *prajas* or farm-labourers, who, in case of giving up the *grihi's* service before satisfaction, have to pay interest at 25 per cent in lump on the principal. This interest is technically called *nagurá*.

Legal rate of interest.

The Civil courts of the State do not allow interest in a sum exceeding the principal.

The money-lenders.

The Marwaris are great money-lenders. Some natives, both in the town of Cooch Behar and the interior, have taken to the profession of money-lending. Except under the *muli* system, the loans do not press unduly on the debtor. The money-lender is an indispensible factor in every civilised community, and there is no reason why the case should be different here. The creditors of Cooch Behar are on the whole not a very bad lot.

CHAPTER XI.

MATERIAL CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

Health of the people.

Cooch Behar is a tolerably healthy and well-drained tract, and the people do not much suffer from sickness. It is true the epidemics of cholera and small-pox occasionally break out in the country; but they are no exception to this State, and, save when unusually severe, which is seldom the case, do not affect the ordinary rate of mortality. The people are thus a tolerably healthy race.

People chiefly agriculturists.

By far the largest portion of the population belongs to the lower class, which is the class of agriculturists. There is a limited middle class, and very few aristocracy. The wants of the Cooch Behar rayat are not many. The rich soil of the country yields crop after crop, in different seasons, and supplies him with the necessaries of his daily life. The food-grains grown in the State are sufficient for feeding the entire population, and yet leave a surplus for export, and also for provision against times of distress. Jute, tobacco, and mustard-seed bring him enough ready money for paying the rent, satisfying the creditor, and purchasing his clothing and other necessaries, which his field does not supply. Some little luxuries are not also denied to him. He is on the whole a well-fed and contented peasant, and is secure in life and property, under the enlightened and almost paternal government of the country.

Life easy and simple.

The average rayat leads an easy and simple life. He lives in the present and has little care for the future. Living on his own land and subsisting on the produce of his field, he is secure if his cattle, which is the only wealth he possesses or cares for, keeps health and works well. His wife is a good partner, and, beyond cultivating his land, and paying the rent due upon it, he has ordinarily no care for any thing else, the mistress of the house looking after the rest of the household affairs.

His habits were hitherto extremely simple. A frugal meal once in twelve hours satisfied him, as it does even now. A short cloth in summer, added to a coarse sheet in winter, was all that he required in the shape of dress; the bamboo sun-shade kept out his sun and rain; and the rough wooden *chopar* or *kharam* protected his bare feet from the mud and thorn. He does not drink; the smoke of the inexpensive *alwa* tobacco could give him ample recreation after toil. He was generally happy with these which are at his command, and did not sigh for luxuries which were beyond his reach.

The simplicity of the peasant's life is, however, gradually yielding to the influence of modern civilisation, and the gaudy trinkets, which are its surest fore-runners, are fast pouring into the country, and tempting the simple vision of this agricultural people. Already they have succeeded in creating a false want in the mind of the people, specially the young generation; and life is becoming more and more artificial and unnecessarily expensive, even among the rural population of the State. Life gradually becoming artificial and expensive.

CHAPTER XII.

LANGUAGE.

The language spoken by the people of Cooch Behar is a form of Bengali with important local or tribal variations. It is properly a dialect of the Bengali Language. Dr. Grierson, in his Linguistic Survey of India, proposes to call it the *Rangpuri* or *Rajvansi* dialect. The name Rajvansi, as having a wider application, is more appropriate than Rangpuri, and may be adopted to designate the dialect spoken by the people of this State, and the neighbouring British Districts. Rajvansi dialect.

Although having many words in common with the parent language, a part of the vocabulary of this dialect is indisputably its own, and forms one of the several points which mark it out from the standard Bengali. These points of dissimilarity or peculiarity are briefly noticed below. Chief points of dissimilarity with Bengali.

PRONUNCIATION.

The common people can not correctly pronounce the vowels, with the exception of ঋ and ঌ, when they happen to be at the beginning of a word; in such a case the consonant র্ is invariably joined to the vowel-sound: Thus, র for অ; রি for ই; রৌ for ঔ; and so on. For example, অমিদ্র is pronounced as রমিদ্র; আম as রাম; উকীল as রুকিল; ওঝা as রোঝা; and the like. Vowels pronounced with the addition of র্।

Conversely, in words beginning with র্, the consonant is omitted, and only the vowel-sound is given out. For instance, রমণী is pronounced as অমনী; রাত্তির as আত্তির্; রূপনাথ as উপনাথ; রৌদ্ as ঔদ্; and so forth. Consonant র্ is not pronounced.

When র্ occurs in the middle of a word it is sometimes skipped over in pronunciation, and the next letter is doubled; as, তোর্বা for তোর্ব্বা; অভর্সা for অভর্স্যা; মর্নেয়া for মর্ণ্যেয়া, etc.

ড় as র়।

The letter ড় is ordinarily pronounced as র়।

General peculiarity of pronunciation.

The one great noticeable point in the dialect is its general tendency towards mincing and shortening the vowels, and sometimes entire syllables and words. A few instances are given below :—

Full word	As pronounced	Full word	As pronounced
মানুষ ...	... মান্‌সী	কয়লা ...	... কইলা
পাখী ...	... পখী	তোকে ...	... তোক্
মাসী ...	... মসী	বেটাকে ...	... বেটাক্
গাছ ...	... গছ	মাঠেতে ...	... মাঠ্‌ত্
বাবা ...	... বা	পাতকুয়া ...	... পাট্‌কী
বনাই ...	... বহু	একখানা ...	... একনা
পয়সা ...	... পাইসা	শশক ...	... শেশা
খালই ...	... খলাই	আনাজ ...	... আঞ্জা
করিয়া ...	... করি	হইতে ...	... হাতে

But instances of elongation of the vowel-sound are not rare : Compare—

Word	As pronounced	Word	As pronounced
মা ...	... মাও	কথা ...	... কাথা
পাট ...	... পাটা	মান ...	... মানা
কাউন ...	... কাউনী	কাঁঠাল ...	... কাটোল
ডাউক ...	... ডাউকী	না ...	... নোয়ায়্‌
তেঁতুল ...	... তেত্‌লী	কেন ...	... কেনে

WORDS AND PARTS OF SPEECH.

Bengali words used in different sense.

Some words though Bengali in form are used in a different sense. For example,—

Word.	Rajvansi meaning.
বিছানা (Beddings) ...	... Bed-stead ; cot.
থাকা (To stay) ...	... To lie down.
কয়লা (Charcoal) ...	... Charcoal-cake or *ticá*, which is used in a quite different sense.
সিঁড়ি (Steps) ...	... Wooden post.
খুটা (Log of wood ; peg)	... Wooden box.
শাক (Leaf-vegetable)	... Vegetable curry generally ; as ডাল-শাক, মাছ-শাক।

সাজান (To arrange) ... ... To make or construct.

The word বাড়ী, when compounded with any other noun, sometimes means place ; such as ধান-বাড়ী, paddy-field ; so also পাটা-বাড়ী, মরিচ-বাড়ী, বাঁশ-বাড়ী, ঝিন্ন-বাড়ী, etc. Meaning of the word বাড়ী in a compound.

The word খাওয়া (in Bengali, to eat) is often used in the Bengali sense of করা, or 'to be in a state of' ; as রাগ্ (রাগ্) খাওয়া, to be angry ; হাতাস খাওয়া, to be afraid. খাওয়া is also used in the sense of 'to be necessary, to require' ; for example, এ কামে এক মাস খাইবে, 'this work will require one month (to finish)' ; মোর্ যাওয়া খায়, it is necessary for me to go ; etc. Meaning of খাওয়া।

There are many words in the dialect which may not be of a Bengali origin. A few are given below :— Some words are not Bengali.

Rajvansi word.		Their meaning.
আবো	...	... Grand-mother.
মাইয়া (মেয়ে a daughter)		... Wife.
ভাউজ	...	... Elder brother's wife.
ভাউসানী	...	... Younger brother's wife.
বাই	...	... Elder sister.
আনো, ভিনসী, বন্ধু		... Younger sister's husband.
গাবুর	...	... Youthful.
ঢোবা	...	... Big.
পিস্থ	...	... Small.
গেন্দু	...	... The *gab* fruit.
ভাণ্ডী	...	... The bear.
হেকড়া	...	... The leopard.
তরমুল	...	... The *pepiya* fruit.
সুপরী	...	... The *peyárá* fruit.
কাঁঠালসুপরী	...	... The pine-apple.

The following are a few other grammatical peculiarities :—

Pronouns.—The personal pronouns of the first and second persons are always used in the plural form in a singular sense ; for example,

আমি (Bengali) ... ... আমরা (Rajvansi)

তুমি (do) ... ... তোমরা (do)

Their plural is formed by the addition of 'গুলা,' a word which conveys plurality of idea. Thus—

আমরা (Bengali) ... ... আমরাগুলা (Rajvansi)

তোমরা (do) ... ... তোমরাগুলা (do)

In fact, the word গুলা is the usual plural suffix, and is generally used to indicate the plural number in the Bengali style : as, মানুসী-গুলা ; ছাওয়া-গুলা ; etc.

Unlike the Bengali language there is no separate form of respect of the pronouns of the second and third persons, like আপনি, তিনি, উনি, etc., in the Rajvansi dialect. The words তোমরা, উমরা, and ইমরা etc., the corresponding forms in this dialect, are used to represent both equals and superiors.

Cases.—The ending of the objective case is ক্ instead of কে ; as মোক্, তোক্, তাক্, রামক্, কেটাক্, etc.

Similarly, the ending of the locative case is ত্ instead of তে ; for example, ঘর, ঘরত্ ; বাসা, বাসাত্ ; নদী, নদীত্ ; মধু, মধুত্ ; etc.

Verbs.—The declension of the verb is peculiar in the Rajvansi dialect. The endings ই and এ, which are used in Bengali in the first and the second person, are changed into ওঁ and এন্, respectively. The form of the verb in the second person in this dialect therefore corresponds with the form of respect of the second and the third person in Bengali. Thus—

Verb কর্—*Present tense.*

Bengali.	Rajvansi.
আমি করি।	মুঁই করোঁ।
তুমি কর।	তোমরা করেন।

Verb গম্ *Past tense.*

আমি গিয়াছি।	মুঁই গেইছোঁ।
তুমি গিয়াছিলে।	তোমরা গেইছেন।

In the familiar form of the third person, Indicative Mood, Present tense, as well as in the form of contempt, the Rajvansi ending is লু, instead of লি in Bengali ; for instance,—

Bengali.	Rajvansi.
তুই করিলি।	তুই কর্‌লু।
তুই হাসিলি কেন?	তুই হাস্‌লু কেনে?

In the future tense the ending of the first person is ম্ instead of ব ; as, মুঁই করিম্, যাইম্ ; আমরা গুলা থাকিম্, খাইম্ ; etc.

The progressive form is formed by the addition of the root ধর্ with the principal verb. For example—

Bengali.	Rajvansi.
আমি যাইতেছি।	মুঁই যাবার্ ধরছোঁ।
তুমি হাসিতেছ।	তোমরা হাসিবার্ ধর্‌ছেন।

In the imperfect form, the verb does not take the ending য়া, but stands as in the Present tense of the first person. For example—চলি যাও for চলিয়া যাও ; ধরি আন for ধরিয়া আন ; বসি থাক for বসিয়া থাক ; and the like.

Adverb.—The adverb of negation, না, is placed *before* the verb and not *after* it as in Bengali ; as, না যাঁও ; না শুনেন্ ; না পারে (pronounced as না প্রায়্) ; etc.

The emphatic না is নাই ; as নাই দেখো ; নাই যান্ ; নাই করে ; etc.

Interjections.—The following are a few of the words of exclamation :—

হিড়িত্; চালাত্ ; টিক্কিত্; হির্ ; বাহে ; য়্যাও; etc.

SPOKEN AND WRITTEN LANGUAGE.

Spoken and written language

In the old Rajvansi dialect there was very little difference between the written and the spoken language. With the spread of education modern Bengali is being largely taught. While writing therefore the literate people use the standard Bengali language to a great extent.

PART III.

HISTORY AND ADMINISTRATION.

CHAPTER I.

BRIEF HISTORICAL RETROSPECT.

Cooch Behar is a part of old Kamarupa.

The territory of modern Cooch Behar originally formed part of the ancient kingdom of Kamarupa, and had no separate existence of its own as a distinct principality prior to the division of that country between king Naranarayan and his brother Shukladhvaja, commonly known as Chila Ray, in the middle of the sixteenth century.

Its early history belongs to the wider history of Kamarupa.

The early history of the State therefore legitimately belongs to the wider history of Kamarupa, and has to be sought for among the numerous writings, both ancient and modern, that are now in existence and are capable of throwing any light on the subject. The work of compilation of an ancient history is naturally attended with much doubt and difficulty, and the result obtained is not often free from uncertainty. In India, where the ancient scholars have left no historical annals in the modern sense of the word, the difficulty must be very great indeed. The researches of the modern scholars, however, have partially removed the gloom that formerly spread over every thing old, and have made the ground of antiquity smoother than it would otherwise have been.

Materials for the history of Kamarupa.

The materials available for an account of Kamarupa are the Ramayana and the Mahabharata, which may be aptly called the encyclopedia of informations on almost every thing connected with ancient India; the Puranas supplemented by the more modern writings of the Tantras; the accounts given of the country by ancient travellers; and the writings of the modern scholars, and of the historians of the Mahomedan period, backed by such local traditions, as are sufficiently old and have gained a firm footing on the national mind. The notices of the country in the great epics and most of the Puranas are only casual and incidental in their nature, and serve more as an authority for the later writings of the Tantras and the modern researches than furnish independent materials for the construction of a connected history.

The Aryan conquest of India.

The modern researches of the western scholars have almost established it as a fact that the *Aryas* or Aryans, who have given culture and civilisation to India, were not natives of the soil, but came from the north-west, and gradually wrested the country from its primitive owners, the Kolarians and Dravidians.

The operations of conquest commenced from the Punjab and gradually extended eastward and southward, until the whole of ancient India was subjugated, and came to be called, probably after the name of the first settlement of the conquerors on the *Sindhu* or Indus, *Hindusthan*. The Sanskrit name is, however, *Bharata-varsa*, derived from king Bharata, who, according to the Hindu Mythology, obtained the country from his father Rishava, who was the great-grand-son of Priyavrata.[1] On the approach of the Aryans the natives of the soil gradually fled before the conquerors, and occupied tracts less coveted, or more difficult of access. As was to be expected under the circumstances, they were held in utter contempt by the new-comers, and named *Yákshas*, *Rákshashas*, *Dánavas*, *Kirátas*, and the like, each of which terms is an expression of contempt, and is applied to designate a class of human beings considerably below the standard of Aryan conception of man.

The relation between the conquerors and the conquerd.

These early conquerors and their descendants held the vast territories under a national sway for above 3,000 years[2] according to the calculations of the modern scholars, ending with the twelveth century, towards the close of which the Mahomedan conquest began. The Pathan kings of Delhi nominally held the country for two centuries, and were succeeded by the Mogals, who reigned supreme in India till the rising of the great Mahratta Sivaji by the middle of the seventeenth century. The imbecility of the Mogal emperors who came after Auranzebe led to a disintegration of the great empire, and the different provinces became practically free from a central control. At last the English came into power after the battle of Plassey in 1757, and gradually acquired supremacy over the whole of India.

The Mahomedan invasion.

The English conquest.

At no period perhaps did the country acknowledge sovereignty of one power so completely as at present. On the other hand it appears to have been divided into a large number of kingdoms and principalities with rulers of their own, who sometimes owed a nominal allegiance to a common head, but were otherwise independent sovereigns within their respective territories. In the time of the Mahabharata there were upwards of two hundred and fifty kingdoms and principalities, both Aryan and Non-aryan.[3] Megasthenes the great ambassador at the court of Chandra Gupta, king of Patalipatra, says that India comprised one hundred and twenty two kingdoms. Hiouen Thsang, the Chinese traveller, reckons seventy in India proper. Each of these kingdoms was independent and self-contained.[4] In the early period of Hindu sovereignty these were

Old kingdoms and principalities.—the nucleus of modern Native States.

Their character—independent and self-contained.

1 Vishnu Purana, Part II, Chapter I, Slokas 5-32.
2 R. C. Dutt's History of Civilisation in Ancient India.
3 Mahabharata—Bhishma Parva.
4 Wheeler's History of India, Vol. III., Chap. V., Page 264.

not unoften engaged in mutual hostilities which ended in the death of one opponent, or the subjugation of his territories by the other. Sometimes a hero or conqueror appeared and brought the neighbouring princes under control. In most of these cases nothing beyond a tribute in money or kind was exacted of the vanquished, who were left untouched in the internal administration of their territories. Usually, however, the conqueror satisfied himself with a general plunder of the enemy's capital, and never thought of the expensive and troublesome question of retaining the country for the purpose of government. It was in this way that a kingdom, which was overun by a powerful neighbour or had its chief killed in battle, did not for that fact alone lose its independence.

Effect of conquest,—status of the feudatories.

Conquest did not necessarily imply loss of independence.

The relation between the Aryans and the Non-aryans was far from one of amity in the beginning. But as time wore on, and feuds for land became less, the bitterness of feelings gradually died away to a great extent. Friendly connections were sometimes established by intermarriage, either voluntary or forcible, and led to adoption of the manners and religion of the stronger party by the weaker. More frequently the rude natives imperceptibly imitated the polished ways of their more refined conquering neighbours, and were gradually converted to Hinduism. This led to an admixture of the Hindu religion with the rites and ceremonies of the Non-Aryans, and gave rise to the lower form of Hinduism which is met with all over modern India.

Proselytising of the Non-Aryans.

When the Mahomedans came into power they tried their utmost to get converts to Islamism from amongst the population, but made no serious attempt to obliterate the ruling Hindu dynasties from the map of India. They adopted India as their home, and had no interest in doing so. The consequence was that although Mahomedanism gained a firm footing in the land, old Hindu kingdoms were either reduced to the condition of feudatory States, or left untouched when these were inconvenienlty located for an easy conquest. This is how the ancient Hindu States survived the five and half centuries of Musalman supremacy.

The Mahommedans did not destroy the ruling dynasties.

The English conquered India not from the Musalmans but from the Hindus, and have brought the entire country under the paramount power of the British Government. Although the greater part of the country has come under the direct rule of the paramount power, there are yet many native feudatory States, with their own ruling chiefs and forms of Government, free from British control. In the following pages it will be seen that Kamarupa was a typical Hindu kingdom of old, while Cooch Behar is a feudatory State of the modern type.

The English recognised vested rights.

CHAPTER II.

ANCIENT KAMARUPA.

Old Kamarupa.

The name *Kamrup*, or more properly *Kamarupa*, which now designates a district of Assam, was formerly applied to the whole of the eastern province of the ancient Bhàratavarsha.[5] It is synonymous with Pragjyotisha[6] which, however, seems to have been the older appellation for the country. In the Ramyana and Mahabharata the country is called Pragjyotisha, and its ruler, the Pragjyotisheswara. The term Kamarupa is first made use of in some of the Puranas and Tantras, which are admittedly of a later date than the great epics.

Called Pragjyotisha in the Ramayana and Mahabharata.

Besides Pragjyotisha Kamarupa included.

In very early times Pragjyotisha did not include the whole of Kamarupa of the later date ; nor was it the only kingdom in the east in the days of remote antiquity. The ancient kingdoms of Shonitapura, Jainta, Kachar, and probably also the country of Kundin, which were in existence in the time of the Mahabharata, seem to have subsequently been brought under the control of Pragjyotishpura, and the united territories were named Kamarupa.

Sonitapura, Jayantapura, Kachar, and Kundin.

Shonitapura, which is probably represented by the modern Tezpur, was the capital of a powerful king named Bàna, whose daughter Ushá was forcibly abducted by Aniruddha, grandson of Krishna.[7] There is a tradition that the temples of Siva at Rudreswar on the river Bhairavi and Biswanath on the Buriganga were erected by this Bána Raja.[8] The Rajas of Jayantapura, or the hilly tracts of Jainta, are said to be descended from Vabrubahana, son of Arjun by Chitrangadá, who was the daughter of the king of Manipur.[9] The Hirimbadah or Kachar, which lies on the south of the Brahmaputra, was the country of Ghatotkacha, son of Bhima by Hirimbá.[10] The Rajas of Káchár claim their descent from Ghatotkacha.[11] The territories of Bhishmaka, king of Kundin, which according to the Puranas are identical with Vidarbha[12] or

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[5] Vishnu Purana, Part II, Chap. III, Slokas 1-15 ; also Matsya Purana, Chapter CXIV, Sloka 45.

[6] Hem Chandra.

[7] Srimat Bhagavata—Skandha X, Chapters 63 & 64 ; Vishnu Purana—Part V, Chapters, 32 & 33.

[8] "ভৈরবী নদীর তীরত রুদ্রেশ্বর নামে যে দেবালয় আছে, সেই দেবালয় আরু বিশ্বনাথর দেবালয় এই বাণ রজাই স্থাপন করিছে বুলি এতিয়া লৈকে লোকে কয়" ।—Gunabhiram Barua's Assam Buranji, Chap. II, Page 7.

[9] Mahabharata, Adi Parva, Chap. 216, Slokas 15-26.

[10] Mahabharata, Adi Parva, Chap. CLIV, Slokas, 21-37.

[11] "দক্ষিণ কূলত হিড়িম্ব দেশ। এতিয়াও কাছার বা কছারী রজাই হিড়িম্বর রাণী হিড়িম্বার আর ভীমর পুত্র ঘটোৎকচর সন্তান বুলি কয়"—Guanabhiram's Assam Buranji, Chap. II, Page 7.

[12] Srimat Bhagavata, Skandha X, Chap. 52, Sloka 21 ; also Bishnu Purana, Part V, Chap. 26, Sloka 1.

Berar, are by tradition located in upper Assam in the country around Sadiya. There is a small stream named Kundil in the east of Sadiya, which is supposed to have derived its name from the kingdom.[13] The ruins of a fort, which lie about sixteen miles north of Sadiya, are ascribed to Bhishmaka Raja.[14] Rukmini, a wife of Krishna, was the daughter of this king, and was carried away by force by her husband from her paternal home to evade his great rival king Shishupal.

Elopement of Rukmini.

Date of foundation of Kamarupa is not certain.

The kingdom is very old.

It cannot be clearly ascertained at what date, or even in what century in particular, the kingdom of Kamarupa or Pragjyotisha was founded. There cannot, however, be any doubt regarding its great antiquity. It is mentioned in the Mahabharata that Bhagadatta, the king of Pragjyotisha, was a contemporary and powerful ally of Duryodhana, and fell on the field of Kurukshetra, fighting on his side.[15] Now, the Bharata war is supposed by the modern Scholars to have taken place sometime between 1400 and 1200 B. C. As the war practically marks the close of this period, Bhagadatta may be taken to have flourished in the twelfth century before Christ. This is treading on almost sure ground. According to the Hindu mythology, however, the kingdom is at least twelve centuries older than Bhagadatta. Although the modern scholars ascribe to the occurrence of the Ramayana a date later than that of the Mahabharata, the Puranas[17] agree in persistently holding that a lineal descendant of Rama named Srutayu, surnamed Vrihatvala, fifty-six generations removed from his famous ancestor, was killed in the Bharata war by Abhimanyu, son of Aryuna. If a generation be reckoned even at 20 years, Rama would be found to have been in existence at least 1100 years before the battle of Kurukshetra, or for the matter of that, was so many years older than Bhagadatta. Now, the kingdom of Pragjyotisha is said to have been in existence in Rama's time with Narak as the reigning chief, and the spies sent

According to Hindu mythology foundation of Kamarupa dates before 2,000 B. C.

[13] "ইয়ার (নদীয়া অঞ্চল) ওচরতে এটি সরু নদী আছে ইয়াক এতিয়াও কুণ্ডিল নলা বুলি লোকে কয়" ।—Assam Buranji, Chap. II, Page 7.

[14] "The name of this monarch (Bhishmaka) is still preserved in upper Assam, and a ruined fort, some sixteen miles north of Sadiya, is attributed to his reign".—Gait's 'Koch kings of Kamarupa.'

[15] Srimatbhagavata, Skandha X, Chap. 52 & 53; also Vishnu Purana, Part V, Chap. 26.

[16] Mahabharata Udyoga Parva, Sainika Parvadhyaya XIX, Slokas 14 and 15; also Bhishma Parva—Chap. 92, 99 and 110.

[17] Srimat Bhagavata, Book IX, Chaps. 11 & 12; Vishnu Purana, Part IV, Chap. IV; Matsya Purana, Chap. XII, Slokas 50-55; Linga Purana, Chap. LXVI, Slokas 37-42; Gadura Purana, 142. In all the Puranas except the Gadura, only the important kings are named. The geneology given in the Gadura Purana seems to be exhaustive, and places Srutayu 57th in descent from Rama.

out by Sugriva had special instructions to search critically the beautiful valleys and immense caves of that hilly country for the missing Sita. [18] According to the Kalika Purana also a certain Naraka, king of Pragjyotisha, was a contemporary of Rama. [19] He was preceded in the kingdom of Kamarupa by five other kings, the first of whom, Mahiranga Danava, is said to have been the first king of the country, [20] and must have flourished at least one century before Narak. The origin of the kingdom would thus date twelve centuries before the time of the Mahabharata, or more than four thousand years before the present time.

Territorial extent of old Kamarupa.

There is also no definite information regarding the territorial extent of this ancient kingdom. The boundaries appear to have varied in different times. In the Ramayana, Pragjyotisha is described as being situated near the sea. [21] According to the Ramayana.

The Mahabharata too corroborates this, and Bhagadatta's territories are described as being extended to the sea coast. [22] Mahabharata.

In the time of the Vishnu Purana [23] the extent of the country was one hundred *yojanas* on all sides from the city of Pragjyotishpur, modern Gowhati. Vishnu Purana.

The Jogini Tantra describes the country as being of a triangular shape, one hundred *yojanas* in length and thirty in breadth. [24] Jogini Tantra.

Now, taking a *yojana* to be equal to four *kroshes* or about eight miles, old Kamarupa would be about 800 miles in length and 240 in breadth. This gives a perimeter or circuit of about 1700 miles. When the Chinese traveller Hiouen Tsiang visited the country in 639 A. D. he estimated the circumference at 10,000 *li*, or 1667 miles. [25] Chinese traveller Hiuen Tsiang.

The account of the Yogini Tantra may not therefore be an undue exaggeration. This work is popularly regarded as a great authority on every thing connected with Kamarupa. It contains a good deal of information regarding the ancient geography and history of the country. According to it, ancient Kamarupa was bounded on the north by the Kanjagiri, on the east by the hill stream Dikshu, and on the west by the Karatoya ; and it stretched southward as far as the junction of the Lákshá with the Brahmaputra. Kamarupa according to the Jogini Tantra.

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[18] Ramayana—Kishkindhya Kanda, Chap. 42, Slokas 30-32.

[19] Kalika Purana—Chap. 40-41. In the two subsequent chapters it is related that Narak lived up to the end of the Dwapara Yuga. Evidently he was the first of a line of kings who ruled Kamarupa for a long time, and the last of whom was the father of king Bhagadatta, as will be noticed later on.

[20] "কামরূপর আদি রজা মহীরঙ্গ দানব আছিল। * * * এওঁর বংশর চারিজনা রজা হব। এই বংশর পাছত নরক কামরূপর রজা হব"।—Gunabhiram's Assam Buranji, Chap. III, page 30.

[21] Ramayan, Kishkindhya Kanda ; Chap. 42.

[22] Mahabharata, Sava Parva, Chap. 26, Slokas 7-9.

[23] Vishnu Purana, Part, V, Chap. 29, Sloka 16.

[24] Yogini Tantra, Patal XI, Sloka 21.

[25] Cunningham's Ancient Geography of India, Budhist Period, page 500 also Appendix A, page 565.

It extended from the Kanchana mountain on the north down to the junction of the Brahmaputra in the south, and from the Karatoya on the west to the Dikkaravasini on the east.[26] The Dikkarvasini is a small hill-stream in Upper Assam, and falls into the Brahmaputra in the east of the Bhutan mountains. The Lákshá is the name of a river in Eastern Bengal, which, issuing out of the Brahmaputra below Agarasanda in Mymensing, formerly fell into it again near a place called Hajipur, about twenty-five miles north-east of Dacca. The country of Kamarupa was thus like an inverted triangle, with the portion of the Himalayas east of Nepal as the base, the apex falling south to where the Lákshá met the Brahmaputra.

Western boundary of Kamarupa.

The western boundary of the kingdom lay along the course of the Karatoya for a considerable distance. The present bed of the river does not, however, give an idea of this boundary. The upper portion of its course formerly lay more to the west. The stream Pathraj, which now meets the present channel of the river about seven miles south of Deviganj, in Pargana Boda in the district of Jalpaiguri, marks the old bed of the Karatoya.[28] The course of the river thus lay roughly from north-west to south-east, as far as Ghorághát in Dinajpur. This Ghorághát, as will appear hereafter, formed part of Kamarupa during the rule of the Khen dynasty. Between this place and the Brahmaputra there are still in existence numerous remains of fortifications which are ascribed to the kings of Kamarupa.[29] The south-western boundary therefore seems to have been on the south of these fortifications, which were probably erected not very far from the frontiers. The old bed of the Brahmaputra goes south-east through Mymensing from the east of these fortifications. It

[26] Yogini Tantra—17th Patal, Slokas 16-18.

[27] The Laksha issues out of the Brahmaputra from below Agarasanda in the south of Mymensing, and, flowing south within a few miles east of Dacca, falls into the Dhaleswari opposite Firingi Bazar. The united river then joins the Meghna further down, towards the south-east The Laksha does not now fall into the Brahmaputra as an independent river. On a reference to the map of Major Rennell of 1779, and of Mr. Tassin of 1840, it appears that this river formerly used to feed the old channel of the Brahmaputra at a place called Hajipur, about 30 miles north of the present confluence of the Dhaleswari and the Meghna, and 25 miles north-east of Dacca. This was probably the point of junction of the Laksha with the Brahmaputra contemplated by the Yogini Tantra. It is exactly 240 miles from the Himalayas. Dr. Buchannon regards the point of separation of the Laksha from the Brahmaputra as the southernmost limit of Kamarupa, (Martin's Eastern India, Vol. III, page 403). But the term used in the text is সঙ্গম which means juxtapositon by *union* and not by *separation*. Moreover, the term is technically used to denote নদ্যাদি মেলকঃ, the meeting of rivers, and the like ; *vide* Shabdakalpadruma, as explained by lexicographer Bharata.

[28] Martin's Eastern India, Vol. III, page 362.

[29] Martin's Eastern India Vol. III, pages 455, 456 and 465.

is a good natural boundary, and may be supposed to have marked out the limits of Kamarupa in this direction. In fact, if the old confluence of the Laksha near Hajipur be joined with Ghorághát, the boundary line between these two places would be best represented by the upper section of the old bed of the Brahmaputra continued inland as far as Ghoraghat; and the whole with the Karatoya would give the south-western side of the huge triangle of Kamarupa.

Eastern or south-eastern boundary of Kamarupa.

The south-eastern boundary, however, is not capable of being fixed upon with an equal amount of precision. The country between the mouth of the Laksha and the Dikkaravásini is for a considerable distance full of hilly tracts, where there is even no tradition to help in following the boundary line. However, a line drawn from the mouth of the Laksha to the Dikkaravásini in the north-east of Sadiya would roughly represent the boundary here. The large tract of country enclosed by these boundaries would not only include the modern State of Cooch Behar and the Assam District of Kamrup, but would also cover the Districts of Jalpaiguri and Rangpur, the south-eastern portion of Darjeeling, and greater part of Mymensing, as well as the provinces of upper and lower Assam, together with the hilly tracts of Kachar, Jaintia and the Garo Hills.

Old Kamarupa abounded in forests, hills, and rivers.

These vast territories of Kamarupa formerly abounded in forests, hills and rivers. In the Kalika Purana and the Yogini Tantra more than seventy different hills are named, most of which are regarded sacred by that Tantra, and seem to have been situated in the province of modern Assam. The country was largely intersected by rivers and streams, as it continues to be at the present time. Dr. Wade, speaking of Assam, writes that "this country exceeds every other in the universe of similar extent in the number of its rivers".[30] The Yogini Tantra describes Kamarupa as containing one hundred rivers.[31] This evidently means that the number of rivers is large. This work as well as the Kalika Purana mention above sixty of these. Such of the rivers as can be distinguished on modern maps are the following :—

Rivers mentioned in Yogini Tantra and Kalika Purana.

Karatoya, Trisrota, Dhavala or Sila Prava, Jatadikkara or Jatoda, Swarnakosi, Champavati, Manashá, Vridhavedika, Vridhaganga, Sumangala or Mangala, Bhairavi, Dwipavati, Dikkarika, Bhattarika, Suvarnaha or Suvarnasri, Pissila, Svetaganga, Kalingika, Kapila, Damanika, Divyayamuna, Dhanada, Rupika, Vridhá Drishyamana, Dikshoo and Brahmaputra or Lohitya.

[30] Martin's Eastern India, Vol. III, page 643.
[31] Yogini Tantra, Part II, Patal III, Sloka 3.

Of these rivers the Karatoya, Trisrota or Tista, Dhavala or Dharla, and Swarnakosh or Sankos have been noticed in a previous Chapter. The Jatodbhava or Jatoda seems to be the modern Jaldhaka, the lower portion of which is called the *Singimari*. All of these rivers either touch or pass through Cooch Behar, and ultimately fall into the Brahmaputra. Of the rest the *Champavati Manasha*, *Vridharedika*, *Bhattarika*, *Mangala*, *Dwipavati*, *Bhairavi*, *Dikkarika*, *Vridhaganga*, *Suvarnasri*, and *Pissila* take their rise either in the Bhootan hills or higher up in the Himalayas, and fall into the Brahmaputra on its right bank, while the remaining rivers, which issue from the Naga, Jaintia or Mikir hills, feed it on its left bank. [32]

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[32] A short notice of the rivers, arranged under the different Districts of Assam, is given below to facilitate their identification :—

GOALPARA.

THE CHAMPAVATI, now called *Champamati*, rises in the Himalayas, and falls into the Brahmaputra in the east of Bagribari.

KAMRUP.

THE MANASHA, commonly called *Manas* lies in the east of the *Champavati*, with its mouth opposite Goalpara.

THE VRIDHAVEDIKA, known as Bura Nadi, flows on the east of Manasha and falls into the Brahmaputra opposite Gowhati. It forms the boundary between the Kamrup and Durrang districts.

DURRANG.

THE BHATTARIKA or Batta lies to the east of the foregoing and serves as a feeder to it.

THE MANGALA or Mangaldoi flows on the east of the Bhattarika.

THE DWIPAVATI is the modern Dipoot and lies to the east of the Mangala. Its mouth lies a few miles below Tezpur.

THE BHAIRAVI or Bharilly flowing further east formerly marked the eastern boundary of the Swarna-pith. It falls into the Brahmaputra a few miles above Tezpur.

THE DIKKARIKA or Dikrai lies to the east of the Bhairavi.

THE VRIDHAGANGA is now called Booreegong. Biswanath stands at its mouth.

LAKHIMPUR.

THE SUVARNASRI, the modern *Subansiri*, rises in the Himalayas and falls into the Brahmaputra on the east of Dikkarika, near the Majali Island. Gold-dust is found in abundance in the sands of this stream.

THE PISSILA or *Pisula* flows in the east of the *Suvarnsri*.

NOWGONG.

THE KALINGIKA, the modern *Kallang*, issues out of the Brahmaputra immediately opposite Biswanath, and in a south-westerly course empties itself again into that river a few miles above Gowhati. The District town of Nowgong stands on its left bank.

THE KAPILA, locally called *Kapilli*, issues from the Jaintia hills and falls into the *Kalingika* at Rahà, about 15 miles south-west of Nowgong.

THE DIVYA JAMUNA or *Jamuna* and the DAMANIKA known as *Dyung* are feeders of the *Kapila*. The former takes its rise in the low Nàgá hills and falls into the Kapila at Jamuna-muk, about twenty miles south-west of Nowgong : while the latter, rising in the Kachar hills, joins the river in the south-east of Jamuna-muk at about an equal distance.

THE VRIDHA, commonly known as *Booriganga*, rises in the Mikir hills and falls into the *Jamuna* about ten miles east of its junction with the *Kapila*.

The entire country of Kamarupa is considered sacred by the later Puranas and Tantras, and its sub-divisions are called *Piths* or sacred tracts. The ancient Kamarupa was divided into four *Piths*. These are the Kámá-Pith, Ratna-Pith, Suvarna-Pith and Saumara-Pith. There were other minor *Piths* besides these; these were included in one or other of the wider sub-divisions. The western part of the country lying between the Karatoya in the west and the Swarnakosh in the east was called the Kámá-pith. The Swarnokosh, or Sunkos as it is popularly called, roughly marks the eastern boundary of Cooch Behar even now along a good way. The territorry of Cooch Behar thus formed part of the Kámá-pith and bordered on the Ratna-pith, which lay on the east of the Swarnakosh, and extended as far as the river Rupika. Suvarna-pith was the name of the tract lying between the Rupika and Bhairavi, while the country beyond, to the north-east, was called the Saumara-pith.

Territorial sub-divisions into four *piths*—*Kama*, *Ratna*, *Suvarna*, and *Saumara*.

Their boundaries.

Cooch Behar forms part of *Kama-Pitha*.

CHAPTER III.

THE MYTHOLOGICAL KINGS OF KAMARUPA.

The earliest recorded king of Kamarupa was named Mahiranga Danava. He is regarded by some to have been the first king of the country.[33] Nothing more is known about him. He was succeeded by three kings of his line, one after another, and the dynasty appears to have come to an end with the third, who was named Ratnásura.[34]

Mahiranga Danava, the earliest king of Kamarupa.

Ratnasura

After them, Pragjyotishpura seems to have been occupied by a race of Kiratas, who had a rough exterior and fair complexion, who shaved their heads without any necessity, were irreligious, and addicted to eating flesh and drinking liquor. Their chief was named Ghataka, who possessed much physical power, and was defeated and slain by Naraka, the next king.[35]

Ghataka the Kirata king.

THE RUPIKA or RUPAHI flows in a curve parallel and to the *Kalingika*, about five miles north of that river.

THE DHANADA (modern *Dhunsiri*) river lies on the east of the *Kapila* and *Kalingika*. It rises in the Naga hills, and, winding along the east of the Nowgong District, falls into the Brahmaputra about 35 miles west of Jorehat.

SIBSAGAR.

THE DRISHYAMANA Or *Disang* and DIKSHOO or *Dikho* both take their rise in the Naga hills and fall into the Brahmaputra above and below, respectively, of Sibsagar. The old fortresses at Ghirgong and Rangpur stand on the *Dikshoo*, which formerly marked the eastern boundary of old Kamarupa.

[33] Assam Burangi, Chapter III, page 30.

[34] Gait's 'Koch kings of Kamarupa.'

[35] Kalika Purana, Chapter XXXVIII, slokas 94—99.

Naraka.

Naraka was conceived of the earth by Vishnu, and born, like Sita, a foster child to Janaka the ascetic king of Videha. The celestial father, in fulfilment of his promise to the mother, gave the son the kingdom of Kamarupa. Ghataka offered opposition, and was killed in the battle that ensued between him and Naraka. All his property consisting of tuskers, horse-chariots, arms and jewels came to the conqueror's possession. The Kirats were, under Vishnu's injunction, driven beyond the Dikkaravasini, and settled in the tract stretching between the Lalita Kanta and the sea. The country from the Lalita Kanta to the Karatoya remained under Naraka, and came to be inhabited by numerous Brahmans and men of other high castes. Naraka was married to Máyá, the daughter of the king of Vidarva, and installed in the Nilachala, where a palace was erected for him.

Placed in charge of Kamakshya temple by Vishnu.

Vishnu appointed him worker of the temple of Kámákhyá, and enjoined him to worship and propitiate the goddess. He promised the son immortality in a way, and warned him that should he incur the displeasure of the goddess Kamakhya, his prosperity would be at an end, and his life would be imperilled.[36]

Was a contemporary of Rama.

Also of Bana

Naraka was a contemporary of Rama, and is said to have lived to a very great age, till the end of the Dwapara Yuga. By this time an Ashura named Bána was born at Shonitapura, the modern Tezpur.[37] He grew up to be a powerful youth. Being a devotee of Mahadeva, he was without fear of any body and behaved most recklessly. He came to be a fast friend of Naraka who gradually imbibed his boisterous habits, and became disrespectful to gods and Brahmans, and left off worshipping Kámakhyá. He insulted Vashistha Muni by refusing to allow him access to the temple of the goddess, and was cursed by him with a near death. Under the Muni's imprecation the goddess vanished from the temple ; the people ceased to perform the Vedic rites as before ; the country was visited by natural calamities ; and the entire kingdom was rent by political revolutions, resulting in the death of many of his subjects. In this emergency Naraka sought the counsel of his friend Bána, and was advised by him to worship

Was demoralised by Bana's friendship.

Bashistha's curse.

[36] Kalika Purana, Chapter XXXVIII, slokas 110—145.

[37] Bana was the son of Bali. His daughter Usha fell in love with Aniruddha, grandson of Krishna, in consequence of which the latter was imprisoned by Bána. The subsequent invasion of Bana's kingdom by Krishna and the rescue of Aniruddha are described in the Puranas :—

অনিরুদ্ধো রণেরুদ্ধো বলেঃ পৌত্রীং মহাবলঃ।
বাণস্য তনয়ামূষা মুপযেমে দ্বিজোত্তম। ৭।
যত্র যুদ্ধ মভূদ্ঘোরং হরিশঙ্করয়োর্মহান্।
ছিন্নং সহস্রং বাহূনাং যত্র বাণস্য চক্রিণা। ৮।

—Vishnu Purana, Part V, Chapter XXXII.

Brahma, who, being propitiated by the king, restored the former glory of Kamakhya.

Vishnu-worship came to be neglected.

Although Naraka obtained a temporary respite from Vashistha's curse, the company of Bána and his evil counsel brought about his ruin. Under Bana's advice he cut off his connection with Vishnu, and enrolled in his army a number of powerful Ashuras with whose assistance he commenced a conquest of the Devas. Hayagriva, Upashunda, Virupaksha, and Muroo were his four great generals, and defended the north, east, south and west, respectively, of his kingdom. With the help of Hayagriva he conquered Indra, the king of the gods, carried away his royal umbrella, and the magical *kundalas* or ear-rings of his mother Aditi, as also one hundred and sixteen thousand Deva and Gandharva damsels from the Himalayas. In despair Indra sought the help of Krishna, who invaded Kamarupa, defeated the Asur army of Naraka, and at last killed him in battle. Krishna recovered the royal umbrella and Aditi's ear-rings, released the abducted damsels from Naraka's harem, and carried them away to Dwaraka, together with 1,000 elephants, and 2,10,00,000 horses of the vanquished. At the intercession of the Earth he placed Bhagadatta the eldest son of Naraka on the throne of Kamarupa.[38]

Four Generals of Naraka.

Plunder of Indra's capital.

Invasion of of Kamarupa by Krishna and Naraka's death.

An explanation of the episode of Naraka.

The incidents narrated above in connection with the life of Naraka evidently relate to different epochs of the country's history, and do not seem to have happened during the reign of one king. On the other hand, they are scattered over about eleven hundred years, as has been noticed in a foregoing Chapter, and point to an important revolution in the annals of Kamarupa. Naraka was not a native of the soil. He was evidently an Aryan conqueror and came from the Aryavarta. He was a worshipper of Kamakhya, only another form of the goddess Durga, who is a Hindu deity. The expulsion of the Kiratas marks an epoch which is distinguished from the foregoing age by the settlement of a colony of Brahmans and other high caste Hindus in and about Pragjyotishpura, by the introduction of the Vedic rites into the country, and by the spread of the Paurânic form of Hinduism in general. The period commenced with a struggle between the conquerors from the west and the natives of the soil; it then witnessed the victory of the Aryans, their subsequent degeneration brought on by contact with their less refined neighbours, and ended with the overthrow of the reigning chief. The term Naraka thus appears to have been a general appellation for a line of kings who reigned in Kamarupa, from Naraka who had killed Ghataka

[38] Kalika Purana, Chapters 39—40; also Srimat Bhagavata, Skandha X, Chap. 59.

Kirata, to his later namesake who was the father of Bhagadatta and was slain by Krishna.

Bhagalatta.

Naraka had four sons, Bhagadatta, Madaharsha, Madavana, and Sumali. After Naraka's death, Bhagadatta the eldest son ascended the throne of Kamarupa.[39]

Invasion of Kamarupa by Arjuna.

During his reign the country was invaded by the third Pandava Arjuna. He offered strong opposition with a large army composed of Chinas and Kiratas, but was at last defeated by the invader.[40] Bhagadatta was one of the rival suitors of Draupadi, the daughter of the King of Panchala, and suffered humiliation at the hands of the Pandavas.[41] He afterwards entered into an alliance with Duryodhana by giving his sister Bhanumati in marriage with him. He played an important part in the Kaurava war. He came to the assistance of Duryadhana with a large army consisting of an *Akshauhini* of Chinas and Kiratas, and fought a number of battles against the Pandavas with extraordinary skill and valour. His war-elephants struck terror in the hearts of the enemy.[42] He was at last killed by Arjuna.

Bhagadatta's alliance with Duryodhana.

Bhagadatta's death.

Bhagadatta's *kavacha*.

Bhagadatta was an worshipper of Kamakhya, and bore a *Kavacha* or amulet of *Sukti* or goddess of Might, which is supposed to be still existing in the temple of Goshanimari in the old city of Kamatapura within this State.[43]

Extent of his territories.

Bhagalatta's territories extended as far as the borders of China on the east, and the sea-coast on the south.

Successors of Bhagadatta.

It cannot be ascertained who the next king was. But it seems to be certain that Naraka's line did not become extinct after this. From the inscriptions on a copper plate dug up from near Tezpur in 1840, and communicated by Major Jenkins, Governor General's agent, North-Eastern Frontiers, to the Asiatic Society of Bengal, it appears that Bhagadatta had a number of lineal descendants one of whom by name Pralambha was a mighty king. Two of his ancestors were named Sulasthambha and Sriharisha, with a number of kings intervening between them. He was succeeded by his son Hajara, born of his queen Jivada. Vanamala was the son of Hajara by his wife Tara, and succeeded his

Sulasthambha, Sriharisha and Pralambha.

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39 Kalika Purana Chapter 40. Major Jenkins' copper plate noticed below, however, speaks of Naraka having two sons, Bhagadatta, and Vajradatta—"ভগদত্ত বজ্রদত্তাখৌ তুনা সুতৌ"।

40 Mahabharata, Sabha Parva, Digvijaya Parvadhya 26, Slokas 7—9.

41 Mahabharata, Adi Parva, Swayamvara Parva 187, Sloka 12.

42 Mahabharata, Udyoga Parva, Sainikaparvadyaya 19, slokas 14 and 15.

43 Goanimangal.

father to the throne of Kamarupa. Vanamala was a powerful king, and his territories extended up to the wood-lined sea-coast.[44] Vanamala bore the title of *Barman*, which signifies that he was of Kshatriya descent. The plate bears the date,——Samvat 19. If this means an year of the Samvat era, then Vanamala flourished in the first century before Christ. Hajara and Vanamala.

The royal seal of Vanamala bore the image of an elephant in relief with the following inscription below it in three lines :— Banamala's seal.

স্বস্তি শ্রীমান্ প্রাগ্‌জ্যোতিষাধিপাম্বয়ো
মহারাজাধিরাজ শ্রীবনমালা বর্ম্মদেবঃ[45] ॥

The next king who bore the title of Barman and claimed his descent from Vishnu, and may thus be regarded as a lineal descen- Kumar Bhaskara Barmma.

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[44] নরক ইতি সুন্দরাসীদাদি বরাহস্য ভূবি তদুদ্ধারে।
অদিতেঃ কুণ্ডলহরণে প্রতাপমপি যো হরেরহরৎ ॥ ৩ ॥
কৃষ্ণেন তং নিহতা চ স্বষ্টৌ ভগদত্ত বজ্রলক্ষ্যোর্থৌ।
তস্তস্যতো তদ্বনিতা করুণ বিলাপ হতহত হৃদয়েন ॥ ৪ ॥
সম্প্রাপ্তে ভগদত্তে শ্রীমৎপ্রাগ্‌জ্যোতিষাধিনাথত্বং।
বিনয়াভরোপিত দৈতঃপ্রারাধয়দীশ্বরং তপসা ॥ ৫ ॥
তুষ্টেন তেন তস্মৈ দত্তং সুপরিপন্থনাধিনাথত্বং।
প্রাগ্‌জ্যোতিষাধিরাজ্যং কালেন তদন্বয়স্যাপি ॥ ৬ ॥
তস্যান্বয়ে ভূৎক্ষিতিপাল মৌলিমাণিক্যরোচি সংফুরিতাংঘ্রিপীঠঃ।
প্রাগ্‌জ্যোতিষেশঃ ক্ষত বৈরিনীরঃ প্রালম্ভইত্যদ্ভুতনাম ধেয়ঃ ॥ ৭ ॥
সপুর্ব্বং নৃপতিগুণ সম্বন্ধৌ ধরাগান্তরংজিতর্দ্ধগন্তঃ সালম্ভস্ত প্রমুখৈঃ।
শ্রীহরিষাম্বৈর্মহীপালৈঃ দিবমারূঢ়ৈরাদাস্তভুবুজোর্থে কবৈরি বীরোভুৎ ॥ ৮ ॥
ভ্রাতা শৌর্য্য তাগৈ রসমানান্নারথোতিনৃপঃ।
শ্রীজীবদেতি সংজ্ঞা রাজ্ঞী হৃদয়ানুগা ভবত্তস্য ॥ ৯ ॥
বহুজন বন্দ্যা মহতঃ প্রভাত সন্ধোব তেজসো জননী।
তস্যাস্তসাতু রাজ্ঞঃ সুতো ভবন্নৃপশিরোর্চ্চিতাংঘ্রি যুগঃ।
শ্রীহজরো নৃপেন্দ্রঃ শ্রিয়াস্বয়ং যঃ সমুপ গূঢ়ঃ ॥ ১০ ॥
ধর্ম্ম প্রবাদেষু যুধিষ্ঠিরো যো ভীমোরিবর্গে সমরেচ জিষ্ণুঃ।
একোপানেকৈরিতি সংগতো যো নিঃশষকল্পীতনয়স্বমেতঃ ॥ ১১ ॥
ইতি যস্য মহাদেবী বিলোকা মনোনুগা ভবল্লক্ষ্মীঃ।
শ্রীমত্তারাভিধানা প্রমদারত্নোত্তমা নৃপতেঃ ॥ ১৫ ॥
তস্যাশেষক্ষিতিপ মুকুটোদঘৃষ্ট পাদাব্জপীঠ
সাভূৎসুনুর্নৃপগুণমহারত্নমালা বিভূষঃ।
তস্যাং দেবাামখিলভুবনানন্দকো যঃ শশীব
শ্রীমানথাতো জগতি বনমালাভিধানঃ ক্ষিতীশঃ ॥ ১৬ ॥
জলনিধিতটবনমালা সীমাবধিমেদিনীপতিস্তস্য
যোগাইতিনাম ধাত্রা চক্রে বনমালা ইতিযস্য ॥ ১৭ ॥
Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, Vol. IX, Part II, Pages 767-8.

[45] J. A. S. B. Vol. IX, Part II, page 782.

dant of Bhagadatta or Naraka, was Kumar Bhashkara Barmma.[46] He occupied the throne of Kamarupa when the country was visited by the Chinese traveller Hiouen Thsang in 639 A. D. He was a feudatory of Harshavardhana Siladitya, the Budhist king of Magadha, and in that capacity attended his suzerain at the disputation at Kanouj, and the sixth 'Field of happiness' at Prayaga. He professed the Hindu religion. The people adored and offered sacrifices to the *devas*, and temples were numerous. They were fierce in appearance but upright and studious. Their language differed somewhat from that spoken in Mid-India.[47]

Hiouen Thsang's visit to Kamarupa.

In the time of Bhashkar Barmma the territory of Kamarupa was about 1667 miles in circuit. According to General Cunningham this large extent must have comprised the whole valley of the Brahmaputra river, or modern Assam, together with Cooch Behar and Bhutan. The capital was at Kamatapur in Cooch Behar. The place is now called Bhitarkamta and also Gosanimari, and stands on the left bank of the Singimari in the Dinhata Subdivision. On the east Kamarupa at this time touched the frontiers of the south-western barbarians of the Chinese province of Shu. On the south-east the forests were full of wild elephants, which is still the case at the present day. The soil was deep and fertile and the towns surrounded by moats filled with water brought from rivers or banked up lakes.[48]

Extent of Kamarupa in Bhashkar's time.

It is not known if Bhagadatta's line still continued in the sovereignty of Kamarupa. Mr. Gait mentions Suvahu and his son Suparua as the 19th and 20th kings of Naraka's line. The former became an ascetic and repaired to the Himalayas, while the latter was killed by his ministers. He, however, gives no authority for these statements.

Suvahu and Suparua.

The so-called Rajas of the Rani mouza, in the District of Kamrup, claim their descent from the line of Bhagadatta.

During the rule of the later kings of Bhagadatta's line, different parts of the country rose into power under local chiefs. Budhism had already begun to spread, and created a commotion in the society, and the paramount Hindu ruling family had lost much of its following. In fact the inscriptions of Banamala contain an allusion to somewhat serious struggles between Narak's descendants and their neighbours, and even Vanamala himself was not without his enemies. Thus notices are found of kings reigning contemporaneously with the kings of Bhagadatta's line.

[46] Cunningham's Ancient Geography of India (1871,) page 501.
[47] Wheeler's History of India, Vol III, page 279. Also Gait's Koch Kings of Kamarupa.
[48] Cunningham's Ancient Geography of India, page 500 ; also above.

In the beginning of the era of Sakaditya, namely, about 78 A.D., a king named Deveswar rose into power in Kamarupa; but the site of his capital is not known. He was a Sudra[49] by caste and is said to have gone about the country, and tried to spread the worship of Kamakhya, and put down Budhism. He directed his attention to the repairs of the temple of Kamakhya which seems to have been damaged by the Baudhas. Sudra Deveswar.

Another king of the the name of Nagasankara, said to be born of the Karatoya river, had his capital at Pratapgarh near Biswanath in the Durrang District. The temple of Nagasankar is ascribed to this king. He came into power about the year 378 A. D., and his descendants ruled for the next four hundred years up to the end of the eighth century. Nagasankara, king of Pratapgarah.

A scion of this family, said to be an illegitimate son of a princess of the line, Arimao or Arimatha by name, established a kingdom on the south bank of the Brahmaputra, and incorporated parts of Kachar and Jaintia with his territories. His kingdom extended from the neighbourhood of Gowhati as far as Rahá in Nowgong.[50] Arimatha was succeeded by his son Jangal Balahu reputed to be a mighty warrior. He was constantly engaged in hostilities with the Rajas of Kachar and Jaintia, and erected a line of fortifications to shut out their invasions. Traces of these are still to be seen in Mouza Sahari in Nowgong, and are called Jangal Balahu's *gar*. The Raja of Kachar eventually made peace with him by giving him his daughter in marriage. The Kachari princess proving treacherous to her husband, hostilities again broke out between the two States. In a battle fought on the bank of the Kapilli, Jangal Balahu was defeated. While fleeing from the field covered with wounds, he fell into the Kalinga, and is supposed to have been drowned. The Kacharis occupied his capital after this, and subjugated his territories. Ari-matha. Jangal Balahu.

The so called Raja of Dimuria in Kamrup claims to be descended from Arimatha, and will not touch the *ári* fish, after which his supposed ancester was named.

Four kings named Minanka, Gajanka, Sribanka and Mriganka are mentioned as having reigned for 200 years at Lohityapur in Kamarupa, and as having been succeeded by Phenguà Minanka, Gajanka, Sribanka and Mriganka.

[49] "This Raja is said to have been of the tribe called in the Sanskrit language *Dhivara*, which is usually applied to the Kaibartas of Bengal; but it may be doubted whether the prince belonged to that tribe, which is not one of Kamrup."—Martin's Eastern India, Vol III, page 405.

[50] Gunabhiram Barua's Assam Buranji, pages 39-41. Mr. Gait regards Ari-matha as having descended from the family of Jitari noticed below. In this he follows the *Vansavali* of Prasidhanarayan.

Raja. Mriganka is regarded by some as being the grand-son of Arimatha, and as having made over his kingdom to Jaya Sinha, a learned Brahman of Durrang. It is not known where Lohityapur was. But local tradition ascribes to Phengua Raja the erection of Baidargarh, the ruins of which are in existence near Betna in Kamrup. It is not therefore unlikely that Baidargarh was raised on the site of Lohityapur.[51]

The Chut'a king.

After the decline of the Pratapgarh family, a people called *Chutia* rose into power in upper or north Kamarupa. Their king is said to have been descended from Kuvera, the Himalayan treasurer of Mahadeva. He was most likely an officer of the court of Pratapgarh, and, on the downfall of that line, founded a kingdom of his own. The District of Durrang, and, in fact, the whole of the *Uttarkola* or north valley of the Brahmaputra are supposed to have once been included in the Chutia territory. When the Ahoms came into power the Chutias were driven back to the north-east.[52]

Jitari.

A Kshatriya Sannyasi, named Jitari, came from the west, and founded a kingdom in lower or south Kamarupa. Gowhati was abandoned for good, and the capital was located somewhere in the west, but it is not known where. He was succeeded by eight kings of his line, beginning with Subali and ending with Ramachandra.[53]

Raja Jalpeswar.

Raja Jalpeswar is said to have been a contemporary of Jitari, and founded the temple of Jalpes Mahadeva, in the District of Jalpaiguri. It is not known where his capital was. Very considerable ruins are to be found at no great distance from this place, lying on the borders of Parganas Boda and Bykunthapur, west of the Tista. But these are ascribed to Prithu Raja, who may, however, have been a person of the same family.[54]

Prithu Raja.

It cannot be ascertained when Prithu Raja flourished, or how far his territories extended. The size of his capital[55] is large, and there are numerous works raised in the vicinity by various dependants and connections of the court. Prithu Raja must therefore have governed a large extent of country and ruled for a considerable time. His captal was invaded by a tribe of impure feeders, called *Kichakas*, and he is said to have become so much afraid of

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51 Gait's Koch Kings of Kamarupa.

52 Gunabhiram's Assam Buranji.

53 Gait's Koch Kings of Kamarupa.

54 So says Dr. Buchannan.—Martin's Eastern India, Vol III, page 406.

55 The city consists of four concentric enclosures. The innermost is said to have been the abode of the Raja, and the appearances justify this supposition. It is a parallelogram of about 690 yards from north to south, and by half as much from east to west. The ruins of this city are fully described by Dr. Buchannan in Martin's Eastern India, Vol III, page 443.

having his purity sullied that he threw himself into a tank, and was followed by all his guards. The town was given up to plunder, and thus the family ceased to reign.

The next line of kings to be noticed are the Palas, who preceded the Khens of Gosanimari, and were perhaps contemporaries of the Sen kings of Bengal. It is considered by some that they were descended from the Pál kings of Bengal; but this is still an open question.[56] The founder of the line seems to have been Dharma Pál, whose city was in Dimla in Rangpur. He governed a large extent of country extending as far as Tezpur in modern Assam. He had a brother named Manik Chandra, who having died early left the management of his son Gopi Chandra and his estate to his wife Maynamati. This lady was an extraordinary woman, and makes a conspicuous figure in the traditions of the natives. She tried to place her son on the throne, and a battle ensued between Dharma Pál and her army, in which the former disappeared never to come back again. The Pala kings. Dharma Pal.

Gopi Chandra succeeded his uncle Dharma Pál. He was given to youthful excesses in his early life; but in his manhood he devoted his whole life to religion. Under the tuition of his mother's spiritual guide named Haripa, a *yogi*, or religious mendicant, of remarkable sanctity, he changed from voluptuousness to piety, and at last adopted a *yogi's* life, and repaired to the woods. Gopi Chandra.

Gopi Chandra was succeeded by his son Bhava Chandra, who is given as an example of stupidity. His minister Gava Chandra exceeded even his master in dullness. Bhava Chandra, however, seems to have lived in considerable splendour, and without fear. His capital was at Bagduar in the Pargana of the same name in the Rangpur District. The ruins of his house are still in existence. Bhava Chandra.

The last of the line was the Palá Raja. The remains of his house and fort, called Palargor, are still to be seen in Bagduar. He is said to have been overthrown by the first king of the Khen Palá Raja.

[56] "It would not appear that during the rule of the dynasty of Adisur any part of this District (old Rangpur) was comprehended in the Hindu kingdom of Bengal. On the contrary, about that time, or not long after, the western parts of this country as far as the Brahmaputra, seem to have been suject to a family of princes, the first of whom, that has left any traces, was Dharma Pal. Whether or not from his name we may suppose that he was one of the Pal family which preceded the dynasty of Adisur, who in the wreck of his family may have saved a portion, I shall not venture to determine. From the works that are attributed to Dharma Pal, he would appear to have been a person of some power; and even the works attributed to the relations and dependants of his family, possess some degree of magnitude".—Dr. Buchannan in Martin's Eastern India, Vol. III, pages 406 and 407.

dynasty. It is, however, more likely that a period of anarchy intervened between the two dynasties.

During the rule of the Pál kings Rangpur formed a part of Kamarupa.

CHAPTER IV.

THE KHEN KINGS.

State of anarchy after the fall of Pala dynasty.

It is not known how the rule of the Pala kings of Kamarupa came to an end, or why Palà Raja had no lineal successor to the throne of the country. It is probable that the last of the Pala kings having died without an heir, the part of Kamarupa west of the Brahmaputra remained in a state of anarchy for some time, and was overrun by several tribes of Koch, Mech, Garo, Kachari and Bhot. This period of disturbance and disintegration of power was most favorable for the rise of upstarts, and thus a person of humble birth some how acquired power, and, proclaiming himself king of Kamarupa, assumed the title of Niladhvaja. He was called Kanta Nath. His father's name was Bhakteswar and his mother's name Anganá. The couple lived in comparative indigence in Taluk Jambari on the bank of the Singimari, when the child was born. When Kanta Nath was five years old Bhakteswar died, leaving his wife and child unprovided. Anganá in her distress gave her boy to a Brahman of the neighbourhood to tend his cattle, and in return obtained food and clothing for herself and her child. Complaint was, however, often heard of people's crops being destroyed by the Brahman's cows through the carelessness of the young cowherd. Going one day to watch his doings, the Brahman came upon the boy asleep under a tree, and a big cobra, with its expanded hood, shading his face from the slanting rays of the sun. The astonished Brahman then noticed on the feet and hands of his sleeping cowherd marks of royalty, and knew that the boy was destined to be a king. He went away without awaking the sleeper, and from that day forth absolved him from menial labour. He, however, extorted from Kanta Nath a promise that should he happen to become a king, he would make him his *guru* or spiritual guide. In course of time, evidently acting under the advice of the Brahman, Kanta Nath succeeded in becoming the king of Kamarupa. He kept his promise to his former master whom

Rise of the Khens.

Niladhvaja.

His early life.

How he became king.



THE Bagh-duar OR TIGER-GATE WITH PORTION OF KANTESWAR'S RAMPART.- *Page 221.*

he made his preceptor.[57] He brought many Brahmans from Mithila or Tirhoot, the birth-place of his spiritual guide, and did much to re-establish the worship of the Vedic gods. The king belonged to the *Khen* tribe, and was raised to the dignity of pure Hindus for this meritorious act. Colony of Brahmans from Mithila

Niladhvaja built his capital at Kamatapur on the west bank of the Dharla, about 14 miles south-west of modern Cooch Behar, and enclosed it on three sides with a gigantic rampart with an inner and an outer ditch, while the Dharla protected the east. The citadel was erected in the middle within a double line of fortifications, the outer one being of earth, and the inner one of bricks, with a moat between the two. A temple was erected within the brick-wall for the worship of the family deity, who was called *Kamateswari* or the guardian goddess of Kamatapur.[58] The general title of honour of this line of kings was *Kanteswara* or *Kamateswara*, the lord of *Kamata*. Building of Kamatapura.

He was succeeded by his son Chakradhvaja. During the reign of this line of kings the shrine of *Gosanimari* is said to have been discovered. It is supposed to be nothing more than the *kavacha* or amulet of the ancient king Bhagadatta who fell on the field of Kurukshetra. A kite seized the king's severed arm with the *kavacha* on it, and flew across the country to come to Kamarupa, where it rested upon a *Simul* tree on the banks of the *Fatik kura*, which was the name of a lake of clear water west of Kamata. Here the organ fell with the *kavacha* and gradually sunk deep into the earth. The king came to know of this from a fisher-woman, who by the by had the power of seance, and on digging near the *Simul* tree discovered the skeleton of the arm with the *kavacha* still clinging to it. He had it enshrined with due solemnity, and placed within the temple of Kamateswari. Chakradhvaja

Gosani enshrined.

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[57] This account is given in the *Gosanimangal*, a short work in verse written towards the end of the 18th century of the Christian era, during the reign of Maharaja Harendra Narayan by a native poet named Radhakanta. The book merely records the tradition as it prevails in the country. According to it Kantanath is the first as well as the last of the kings to whom the ruins of Kamatapur are ascribed. Dr. Buchannan Hamilton and other authorities on the subject, while accepting the tradition regarding the early boyhood of the first king of the line, hold that there were three kings, the last of whom was defeated and taken prisoner by Hossein Shah, Nabab of Gaur. The material evidence furnished by the magnitude and extent of the ruins of Kamatapur do not make it probable that defences and public works executed on so large a scale could be the work of a single reign. It is probable that the tradition took its present shape from the misleading similarity of the name *Kantanath* to the term *Kanteswar*, which was the title of the king of Kamatapur, and also from the national vanity of aggrandising a favourite of the goddess Chandi whose devotee Kantanath was, and to whose favor he is said to have owed his advancement.

[58] For a full description of the city, vide *ante*, Remains of Antiquities, pages 81-93.

Nilamvara.

Chakradhaja was succeeded by his son Nilamvara who was the third and last king of the line. His dominions included the greater part of Goalpara and Kamrup, the whole of Rangpur and Cooch Behar, and portions of Jalpaiguri and Dinajpur. Ghoraghat was the southern-most district of his territory, where he built a fort, which still goes by the name of 'Nilambar's fort.' He did much to improve communications, and established temples in different parts of the kingdom. Among other works of public utility, he constructed a magnificent road from the capital to Jalpesh with good tanks by its side at every second or third mile. The present Dinhata-Mekhligunj road closely follows the alignment, and takes up the embankment, of this road. Another big road was opened connecting Kamatapur with Ghoraghat, a portion of which still forms part of the main road between Cooch Behar, Rangpur and Bogra. The old temples of Siva at Jalpesh and Baneswar, and Kateswar in Panga are ascribed to him. He erected a fort at Ghoraghat, another at Hatibanda, and a third at Olipur, the last two in the modern District of Rangpur, connecting a line of fortifications raised for the defence of his kingdom from the Musalman kings of Bengal. The ruins of a house in the south-western extremity of Pirgunj in the above named District are also ascribed to him. This house is called *Kantadwar*.

Extent of his dominion.

Works of public utility undertaken by him.

The country enjoyed peace and prosperity under his rule. It is said that poverty was almost unknown and the royal exchequer was always full. There were a mint within the city, and a reserve Treasury at Atharakota, which latter was stocked with the large surplus of revenue.

Conquest of Ghoraghat by Musalmans.

In the reign of Barbek Shah, Musalman king of Bengal, about the year 1460 A. D., Ghoraghat was conquered by Ismail Gazi, the celebrated *Pir*, who reduced all the neighbouring country, and took up his residence in the fort of Ghoraghat.[59]

Fall of Kamatapur.

King Nilambar met with a tragic end. He had five queens to the youngest of whom, by name Vanamala, he was fondly attached. He, however, had occasion to suspect infidelity on the part of his favourite queen, and, on private enquiries, soon learnt that Manohar, the son of his minister Sasi Patra, was in the habit

The queen's infidelity.

[59] Journal of Assiatic Society of Bengal, 1874, page 216. Dr. Buchannan Hamiltion also makes mention of the conquest of Ismail Gazi, although he says it took place in the time of Nuzrut Khan, king of Gaur—Martin's Eastern India, Vol II, page 680. It is not clear who this Nuzrat Khan was. Among the independent Musalman kings of Bengal there is only one name which bears a resemblance to that given by the Doctor, namly, that of *Nusserit Shah*, son of Hussein shah, the destroyer of Kamatapur. Nilambar could not, however, be living in the reign of Nusserit, having (as will appear hereafter) died during the reign of his father.

of visiting her apartment. Mad with rage the king had him detected as he was secretly making his escape from the seraglio, and put him to death. The guilty queen was ordered to prepare a dish of her lover's flesh herself. The king then invited the minister to a banquet and made him partake of his son's flesh. When Sasi Patra came to know what had happened he became extremely mortified, and swearing vengeance he secretly left the capital by night, and went to the court of Hossein Shah, the Musalman king of Bengal. Here he succeeded in persuading Hossein Shah to march against Kamatapur at the head of a large army.[60] The Musalmans after conquering the outlying parts and establishing garrisons there laid siege to the city. The siege lasted for a long time, it is said for 12 years, after which the place was taken by stratagem, or rather by an act of abominable treachery. Hossein Shah sent a message to the king that having lost all hopes of taking the place he was desirous of making peace and leaving the country on most friendly terms. This having been accepted, it was next proposed that the ladies of the king of Bengal would pay their respect to the queens of Kamatapur. This also was accepted as a mark of polite attention. Upon this

King's revenge.

Minister's retaliation.

Trachery of Hossein Shah.

[60] Hossein Shah had already been aspiring after foreign conquest, and perhaps did not require much persuasion. The Hindu kingdom of Kamarupa was not also unknown to early Mahomedan conquerors. In 1205 A. D. Mohammad Bukhtear Khilije, the first Musalman conqueror of Bengal, having stationed garrisons in all the strong places of the newly subdued province, was siezed with the mad ambition of adding the bleak mountains of Bhutan and Thibet to his dominions. Accordingly, with a select detachment of 10,000 horse he crossed the Bagmaty river and marched along the frontiers of Kamrupa to Thibet, from which he had, however, to make a retreat. While coming back he took possession of a Hindu temple, and was probably for that reason, attacked by the Raja of Kamarupa, and driven across the river half drowned with only a small number of his mounted soldiers, the rest having perished in the sweeping torrents of the river.—Stewarts History of Bengal, Section III, page 49.

Ghiyas Uddin Hissam Uddin is also said to have carried his arms into the territories of the Raja of Kamarupa which had never been subdued before by Mahommedan arms, and compelled the Raja to pay tribute, in 1212-1228 A. D. —Stewart's History of Bengal, page 58.

In 1256-57 A. D., Iktiyar Uddin Toghril Khan Mulk Yuzbek, Governor of Bengal, invaded Kamarupa. The Raja, finding himself unable to oppose the Mahomedans, retreated into the mountains, and his capital was taken possession of, and plundered by the invaders, who found there immense wealth. Mulk Yuzbek ordered a mosque to be built, and had himself proclaimed sovereign of the united kingdoms of Bengal and Kamarupa. The Raja made overtures of peace which were rejected by the Musalman conqueror. When, however, the rains set in, the Hindus emerged from the hills, and having taken possession of the roads, cut off all the supplies of gram. The banks of the rivers were cut and all the low country was overflooded. In this dilemma the invaders attempted to retreat across the mountains; but they lost their way and suffered the greatest distress. At length the Hindus, having completely surrounded them in a defile, galled them severely with their arrows. Mulk Yuzbek was mortally wounded and taken a prisoner, and expired shortly after.—Stewart's History of Bengal, pages 66-67.

some armed men were introduced into the city in litters, and with their assistance the city was captured.

Last hours of the king.

At the approach of the Musalmans the queens and other ladies of the royal household saved their honour by committing suicide. Nilambara was taken prisoner, and put into an iron cage to be conveyed to Gaur. On the way the king wanted to bathe and present offerings of water to his forefathers before being killed. Hossein Shah granted this last prayer of the doomed man, and set him at liberty near the *Kajali-kura*, a big reservoir of water outside the city wall. Nilambara went into the waters while guards were stationed on the banks. The king, however, dived in never to rise again, and is still believed by the people to have been taken care of by the goddess Chandi who presided over his destiny. The Musalmans thought he was devoured by some crocodile, and gave him up for lost. The empty cage was left at a place, which is still called Piajárir Jhár, or the place where the cage was emptied, and gives name to a Taluk in Pargana Lal Bazar of this State. The Musalman conqueror gave the city over to plunder, not even excepting the residence of the minister Sasi Patra, at whose instigation the invasion had been undertaken. Public edifices and temples were ruthlessly destroyed, images of gods and goddesses broken or defaced, and the whole city transformed into a heap of ruins. This happened in 1498[61] A. D.

Hossien Shah left his son to complete the conquest.

Before leaving the country Hossien Shah appointed his son governor of Nilambar's territories and to follow up the conquest still further into the east. The Musalman army seems to have fortified themselves at the western end of the city near the Bagduar,[62] and thence undertaken a rash expedition into Assam.

Musalman camp.

At the approach of the invaders the Assamese relinquished the level country and retired with their families to the fastnesses in the mountains. But when the rains set in and the roads became impassable for army by inundation, the Assam king issued with his men from the hills, cut off all supplies of provisions, and forced the son of the Sultan to make a humiliating retreat with loss of half his army.[63]

Invasion of Assam and defeat of the Musalmans.

[61] This date is confirmed by a contemporaneous inscription found by Mr. Westmacott at Maldah bearing date 907 A. H., corresponding with 1501-2 A. D., which belonged to a Madrasa built by Hossein Shah in commemoration of his conquest of Kamata and Kamarupa.—J. A. S. B. 1874, page 281. Also *vide* Stewart's History of Bengal page 112.

[62] A tank with ruins arround it is to this day in existence near Bagduar or the western gate of the rampart in Taluk Petla Adabari within the jurisdiction of the Dinhata Sub-division. The traces of a building can still be seen on the south of the tank which is called Bhonather Dighi. When Dr. Buchannan visited the place in 1809, the ruins were in a more preserved State. He attributed them to the Musalmans.—*Vide*, Martin's Eastern India, Vol. III, page 433.

[63] Stewart's History of Bengal referred to above. Also Blochmann, J. A. S. B. 1872, pages 79 and 336.

After the overthrow of king Nilambar, the Khen dynasty came to an end. The Musalmans were then expelled by the Assamese, and a sort of anarchy prevailed in the country which was thenceforth split up into numerous petty principalities under local rulers called Bhuiyas.[64] Bhuiyas.

CHAPTER V.

KOCH KINGS OF KAMARUPA.

CHANDAN—NARA NARAYAN.

1510—1587.

I.—CHANDAN.

[*Rája Shaká 1—13 ; 917—929 B. E. ; 1510—1522 A. D.*]

After the overthrow of Nilambar by the Musalmans, and the expulsion of the latter by the Ahoms, a sort of anarchy seems to have prevailed in the country, especially on the west of the Brahmaputra, and it was split up into a number of petty principalities under local rulers called *Bhuiyas*. The Koch chiefs were in the meantime gradually rising into power. One of them was Hajo, who had two daughters named Jira and Hira.[65] Both of them were married to a Mech of the name of Hariya, otherwise known as Haridas, who lived in Mount Chikna. Jira was of age when she was married, and in course of time she gave birth to two sons, the elder of whom was called Chandan and the younger Madan. Hira was only eight years old at the time. She is regarded as the incarnation of goddess Bhaghabti, and used to pass her days mostly in the worship of Mahadeva. In her fourteenth year she is said to have been conceived by her divine lord, who used to visit her in Rise of the Koches. Koch Hajo. Jirá and Hirá. Chandan and Madan.

[64] Gait's Koch Kings of Kamarupa.

[65] The name of Hajo is not mentioned in the Cooch Behar chronicles in which Jira and Hira are described simply as the daughters of a Koch. The Assam Buranjies, on the other hand, expressly mention the Koch chief Hajo as the maternal grand father of Bishva Sinha. Captain Lewin in his Account of the Cooch Behar State, while not deviating from the established traditions of the country in the body of the history of the present ruling family, adds in a foot note the following :—

"Hajo was the grand father of the brothers Shishu and Bishu. * * * Hajo himself like many other popular persons was afterwards deified, and is worshipped in several places in Assam. The great temple of Hajo on the north bank of the river Brahmaputra attracts yearly to its shrine thousands of worshippers from Bhutan and Thibet, and is also a place of pilgrimage of Hindus"—Lewin's Account of Cooch Behar.

Shishu and Vishu.

the form of a religious mendicant. Two sons were born to her the elder of whom was called Shishu, and the younger Vishu.

The brothers grew up to be powerful youths. They played and roamed in the woods without any fear of the wild animals, and soon became notorious for their turbulence. There is a legend to the effect that one day god Mahadeva, who wished to make his children monarchs of the whole earth, with a view to test their destiny, for even gods cannot over-ride the destiny of a man, advised Hira to tell them to bring away the first animal they found in the woods on the morrow. Hira asked Shishu and Vishu accordingly. On the following morning an ape was seen by the brothers in the woods where the children had gone to play. They chased it, and after a good deal of trouble Vishu succeeded in killing it with a club. After this a snake was seen floating past a river. Swimming and bringing it away, the two brothers cut up the snake and the monkey, and roasted and ate them. On hearing this Hira had the heads of the snake and the monkey, their bones, and skin brought home, and kept in the house. When Mahadeva came to know of this he was sorry, and said to Hira : "They cannot be kings of the whole earth. They cut up the animals into pieces or *khandas*. Vishva Sinha will only be a *khandeswara*, that is, *king of a part of the earth.*"

Mahadeva tries the destiny of the brothers.

Mount Chikna.

Mount Chikna with its eight villages was at the time under a Hindu ruler. The brothers became soon embroiled in the murder of one of their playmates whom they are said to have offered as a sacrifice to the goddess Bhagavati in the course of their purile worship of the deity.[66] They thus became proclaimed offenders ; and officers of State going out for their apprehension, they fled to the woods. After a time they, however, returned, and with the assistance of their people defeated and killed the governor of Chikna and his men. In the affray Madan was killed.

Fight of Koches with the ruler of Mount Chikna.

Chandan, first Koch king.

On the defeat and death of the last governor of Chikna, Chandan was proclaimed king, and ascended the throne. The

[66] The tradition as embodied in the Rajopakshyana runs as follows :—

"One day in the year 1432 Sakabda, that is, the Bengali year 917, when Bishva Sinha was nine years old, Shibu and Bishu together with Chandan and Madan having met for play along with thirteen Koch boys of their neighbourhood, planted in the ground the dried bamboo sticks that were in their hands, and Bishu, the dried thorn stick that was in his hand. They then made an image of Bhagavati, and bringing flowers and wild fruits, began to worship the image, some dancing, and some singing. Then, to represent the offering of sacrifice, some of the boys were seized as if they were goats, and others struck at them with swords made of spike-shaped leaves. When Shishu seized one of his comrades, pretending to sacrifice him as a goat, Bishu struck the blow with his leaf-sword ; but the blow actually severed the boy's head from his body, and the blood began to flow. Bishva Sinha seizing the severed head and placing it on his own head, then laid it before the image of Bhagavati."—Rajopakshyana, chapter VIII, page 17.

era of the Cooch Behar family is reckoned from the ascension of Chandan to the throne of Chikna, and begins with the year 917 of the Bengali Era, corresponding with 1432 *Shakabda*, and 1510 A. D. Raja Shaka begins with 1510 A. D.

The three brothers married the three daughters of the last chief of Chikna who had been slain in battle. Chandan after a short reign of 13 years, in the course of which the petty chiefs of Kamarupa were brought under subjugation, fell ill and died in his fortieth year. Kamarupa subjugated.

II.—Vishva Sinha.

[*Raja Shaka 14 –44* ; *930—960 B. E.* ; *1522—1554 A. D.*]

After the death of Chandan, Vishva Sinha ascended the throne in his 22nd year in the 14th *Raja Shaka*, corresponding with 930 B.E. and 1522 A. D. He was the youngest and most powerful of the brothers, having been born in the Bengali year 907, at the Vernal Equinox, or on the 10th Chaitra, about the 21st March 1502 A.D. At his coronation Sisva Sinha held the royal umbrella [67] over his head, and, assumed the title of *Raikat*, which, means *head of the family and hereditary chief minister*. He became the king's chief Minister and Commander of the army. Under Vishva Sinha the government began to be systematically administered. He appointed twelve ministers from the 12 chief families of the Meches who had been companions of his boyhood, and helped him and his brothers to conquer the chief of Mount Chikna. Two of these were made councillors, one for foreign and the other for internal affairs. He also introduced a regular state organization by appointing *Thakurias* over 20 men, *Saikias* over 100, *Hazaris* over 1,000 *Omras* over 3,000, and *Nawabs* over 66,000. He took a census of his subjects capable of bearing arms, and found that the number, excluding the young and the old, was not less than 52,25,000. He possessed a large number of elephants, horses, oxes, buffaloes and camels. He conquered the Saumara country, Bijni, Vijoyapur &c.[68] He next demanded tribute from the Deva and Dharma Rajas of Bhutan. His message was treated with contempt, and his ambas- Shishva Sinha made Raikat. Constitution of Vishva Sinha's council. State organisation. Conquest of Vishva Sinha.

[67] The royal cushion or throne was made out of the tail of the serpent of god Mahadeva ; the royal umbrella, out of the hood of that serpent folded in cloth ; and the royal sceptre, by putting the monkey's head and bones noticed above into a silver image of monkey, whence it came to be called *Hanumándanda*. The tradition is given in full in the Rajopakshyana, Chapters VII and VIII.

[68] It is related that Vishva Sinha went to make war on the Ahoms, but fell short of provisions on the way, and thinking it wrong to plunder returned home.—Gait's Koch Kings of Kamarupa.

Gunabhiram in his Assam Buranji relates that Vishva Sinha rediscovered Kamakhya, and rebuilt the temple of the goddess which had in course of time fallen into ruins.—Assam Buranji. pp. 54 and 55.

sador was insulted. A war followed and Vishva Sinha conquered the country up to the foot of the hills. After a part of the mountain-territory had been reduced to submission Vishva Sinha was on the point of falling upon the capital, when the Deva Raja made a treaty with him, acknowledging his supremacy, and agreeing to pay an annual tribute as well as to help him with troops in times of war, and to administer the affairs of Bhutan under his orders.

Subjugation of Gaur.

Next, the king marched to the subjugation of Gaur. Selim Shah son of Shere Shah was then the Emperor of Delhi, and Bengal was under a Musalman ruler, who was evidently Mahammad Soor.[69] Vishva Sinha succeeded in reducing the country round Gaur, but any how does not appear to have conquered the capital. The western portion of the modern Jalpaiguri District appears to have then formed part of Bengal, and he wrested this from the king of Gaur. Sishva Sinha took a fancy to Bykunthapur, and settled there and obtained from the king the whole tract of country known as Pargana Bykanthapur in the District of Jalpaiguri.

Shisva Sinha settled in Bykunthapur.

Perhaps the invasion of Gaur was the last act of warfare undertaken by Vishva Sinha.[70] This took place after 1545, subsequent to the death of the illustrious Shere Shah Soor, king of Bengal. He had now to divert his attention to domestic affairs of the state of a peaceful nature. His mother Hira died by this time, and, following her dying injunction, he removed the capital from Mount Chikna, and located it on the plains at a place called Hingulavasha. A colony of Brahmans was brought from Mithila and other places and settled here. Temples and places of worship grew up in various spots.

Death of Hira, and removal of capital to Hingulavasha.

Vishva Sinha had three sons.[71] Nri Sinha, otherwise called Nara Sinha, the eldest was learned and devout, and given to

Sons of Visva Sinha.

[69] Shere Shah died in 1545 A. D. Soon after the succession of Selim Shah, the second son of Shere Shah, to the throne of Delhi, he had the weakness to abrogate the prudential system of his father, and appointed one of his relations named Mahammad Khan to the general government of Bengal.—Stewart's History of Bengal, pages 145-6.

[70] Mr. Gait speaks of the invasion of Kala Pahar, the notorious destroyer of Hindu temples and images, having taken place in 1553 A. D. He is said to have passed unopposed through the country up the Brahmaputra, and destroyed the old temples of Kamakshya and Hajo king of Kamrup.—Gait's Koch Kings of Kamarupa.

[71] The Assam chroniclers relate that he had eighteen sons. Writes Mr. Gait;—"He (Vishva Sinha) married in one day eighteen wives according to the *Gandharva* ceremony. Two of these wives came from Nepal, two from Kamarupa, one from Kashmira, four from Benares, three from Sonitapura (the modern Tezpur), and two from Mithila. Ten months later, each of his wives gave birth to a son, the names of whom were Nara Sinha, Malla Deva, who was afterwards known as Naranarayan, Sukladhvaja, Gosain Kamala, Maidan, Ramchandra, Sura Sinha, Mana Sinha, Mecha, Vrishaketu, Rama Narayana, Ananta, Dipa Sinha, Hemadhara, Megha Narayana, Jagat, Chandra, and Surya."—Gait's Koch Kings of Kamarupa.

asceticism. The second Naranarayana was an eminent wrestler, and was surnamed Mallanarayan. The youngest Chilarai was strong and powerful, and was called Sukladhvaja.

Character of the king.

The king, although a mighty warrior and successful conqueror, was devout and religious. He worshipped Siva and Durga and honoured the Vaisnavas. He gave alms to the priests and astrologers, helped the poor and visitors from distant countries. After a reign of 31 years he meditated upon relinquishing the world. In the year 960 B. E, corresponding with 1554 A. D, bidding adieu to his brother and sons, he first repaired to his birth place on Mount Chikna. Thence sending away his weeping followers he retired to the mountains in his 53rd year to devote the remainder of his life to close meditation and prayer. He is belived to be still existing immerged in *joga*.[72]

His retirement from the world in 1554 A. D.

III.—NARANARAYANA.

[*Rája Shaká 45-78*; *961-994 B. E.*; *1555-1587 A. D.*]

Abdication of Nara Sinha.

On the retirement of Maharaja Vishva Sinha from the world, his eldest son Nri Sinha or Nara Sinha abdicated[73] the throne in favour of his younger brother Naranarayan, it is said, in fulfilment of a promise[74] made to the wife of the latter at her marriage, and Naranarayan became king in the year 45 *Raja Shaka*, corresponding

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[72] মৎস্থতঃ স বিশ্বসিংহো যোগমাশ্রিতা বিহ্বলে।
তিষ্ঠতাবাক্তরূপেণ দেবি আকল্পমধিকে ॥ ১৭ ॥

Yogini Tantra, Patal XIII, Sloka 170.

[73] The Assam chronicles and Cooch Behar chronicles often widely differ from each other in important matters. According to the former Naranarayan had been nominated by Maharaja Vishva Sinha to be the king after him. Nara Sinha seized the throne while Naranarayan and Sukladhvaja were away in Benares. Naranarayan, however, got the news from his nurse, and, hastening to the capital, wrested the throne from Nara Sinha after defeating him in battle. Nara Sinha fled the country and was pursued by his brothers from place to place, until he became king of Bhutan.—Gait's Koch Kings of Kamarupa.

[74] "When Naranarayan's wife after his marriage went to make the customary obeisance to Nara Sinha, the latter presented her with jewellery and blessed her saying that she would be the queen-consort. When Vishva Sinha retired from the government preparations were made to place his eldest son Nara Sinha on the throne. At this moment Naranarayan's wife, accompanied by one or two attendants, came before the assembly, and bowed down in front of Nara Sinha. On being asked the reason of this procedure she said to Nara Sinha: "Immediately after my marriage when I came and bowed before you, you blessed me saying, 'You will be the queen-consort.' Now that you are to become king, how can I be the queen-consort? Your words have proved untrue." Nara Sinha smiled, and said: "O, mother, you have spoken right. My words cannot fail of accomplishment. Naranarayan will be king, and you will be the queen-consort, I shall not be king."—Rajopakshyana, Part II, Chapter I, pages 29-30.

with 961 B. E, and 1555 A. D.[75] Coins were struck in his name both in gold and silver and came to be called after the new king Narani or Narayani coins.[76] They had on one side the name of Mahadeva, and on the other the name of Sri Sri Maharaja Naranarayan, both in Devanagara characters. Sishva Sing, the Raikat, retired to his residential house at Bykunthapur. Nara Sinha passed his time in spiritual meditation. Pargana Panga, which now forms part of the District of Rangpur, was set apart for his maintenance, and his family dwelt there. His son, Aniruddra, however, remained with his royal uncle at the capital.

Narani coins.

Panga given to Nara Sinha.

Soon after the accession of Maharaja Naranarayan to the throne, news was received from Gaur that the power of the Mahomedans was on the increase, and that the territories subjugated by the last king, were being attacked by them. The king forthwith marched upon Gaur at the head of a large army composed of the natives and Bhutias, and of Rajput, Moghal and Pathan mercenaries, Sukladhaja being the Commander-in-Chief. The governor of Gaur was defeated, and the country as far as the Ganges was conquered.[77] Naranarayan then granted Brahmottar lands to many Brahmans under his seal of the Sinha Chhàpa.

Invasion and subjugation of Gaur.

[75] Mr. Gait in his 'Koch kings of Kamarupa' fixes 1534 A. D. as the year of Naranarayan's accession to the throne. He does not accept 1555 A. D. as the true date, although this is supported by the Cooch Behar chronicles. It is urged by him that the last mentioned date (1555 A. D.) may be at once rejected on the testimony of a silver coin which was found some years ago in the Garo Hills and published in the J.A. S. B. for 1875, page 306. "This coin," urges Mr. Gait, "is dated 1477 Sok (1555 A. D.), or the very year fixed for Naranarayan's accession by Babu Ramchandra (quoted in Hunter's Statistical Account), and as he had to fight with his brother Nara Sing before obtaining the throne, it is extremely unlikely that he began to issue coins in the very first year of his reign." This argument is based on a misunderstanding regarding the established custom of the Cooch Behar family of having, among other rites, coins struck in the name of the new Raja at his coronation. Nazars have to be presented by the officers and subjects to the new king in coins so struck.

[76] The Narayani coin became current in countries beyond the territorial limits of Cooch Behar; in fact it was the currency of the whole of Northern Bengal and Assam. The rupee was at that time a full one. It was reduced to its present size by the latter end of the reign of Maharaja Lakshminarayan in performance of the terms of a treaty entered into by that king with the Emperor of Delhi.

[77] The Musalman rulers of Bengal, however, do not appear to have ceased to give trouble. In 1569 Soliman Shah Kerany is said to have invaded and plundered Cooch Behar.—Stewart's History of Bengal, page 150. Again in 1578 A. D., Hossein Kooly Khan, it is said, compelled the Raja of Cooch Behar to pay a tribute and to acknowledge himself a vassal of the Moghal Empire.—Ibid page 166. The Cooch Behar chronicles are silent on these points.

Mr. Gait speaks of two invasions of Gaur by Naranarayan. In the first Chilarai was not fully successful, although the Ganges was fixed as the boundary between the two kingdoms.

"Two years later, Naranarayan combined with Akbar to attack Gaur Pasha. Chilarai invaded his kingdom with an army from the east, while Raja Man Singh, who was in command of the Imperial army, advanced upon him from the west.

Sukladhaja was next sent out for the conquest of Ghoraghat, and the adjoining tracts. This he soon accomplished and returned to the capital laden with immense treasure. Conquest of Ghoraghat.

In the 53rd year of the *Rája Shaká* Naranarayan led his victorious army into Assam, and not only conquered that country, but also reduced the neighbouring countries of Hiramba or Kachar, Manipur, Jaintia, Tipperah, Kairam, Dimuria and Sylhet into submission. The kings were made feudatories who paid the conqueror a yearly tribute.[78] Conquest of Assam and the Eastern States.

"The ruler of Gaur being thus attacked from two sides at the same time was easily defeated, and his kingdom was then divided between the Koch King and the Emperor of Delhi."—Gait's Koch kings of Kamarupa.

[78] "The Ahom king who had heard of the invasion, summoned a meeting of his councillors, and with their advice, caused an iron goat to be made. This goat he sent to Naranarayan, saying that if he could sever its head from its body at one stroke he should have his kingdom, but not otherwise. Naranarayan offered two goats to Kali, and then taking a sharp sword struck off the head of the iron goat with such force that the sword buried itself in the earth. On hearing of this, the Ahom king was filled with fear and fled to Charai Kharang. Naranarayan then entered Garhgáon. Finding that the Ahom king was not disposed to fight, Naranarayan after halting for a year at Garhgáon sent word to him saying that if he wished to fight he should come prepared, and that if he did not come, and at the same time did not surrender, he would go and attack him at Charai Kharang. On receiving this message the Ahom king agreed to acknowledge himself a feudatory of Naranarayan, and sent as hostages a prince named Sundara, and twenty families of the Gharmath clan, together with one pot of gold and another of silver, 60 elephants, and 60 peices of cloth.

"After that the Koch king left Garhgáon and proceeded first to Morang and thence to Demera.

"Subsequently he deputed Chilarai to go and conquer Harmesvar, the king of Heramba or Cachar. It is related that Chilarai broke open the gate of the capital with two strokes of his riding whip. Seeing this, Harmesvar feared to offer resistance and at once made his submission. He gave 84 elephants and other presents, and agreed to pay an annual tribute of 70,000 silver and 1,000 gold mohars, and 60 elephants. The Koch king then sent messengers to the Raja of Manipur calling on him to submit and pay tribute, and the Raja feeling himself too weak to resist so powerful a prince, at once complied with the requisition. His tribute is said to have been fixed at 20,000 Rupees, 300 gold coins, and ten good elephants. After this Chilarai gave battle to the king of Jaintia and slew him with his own hand. Naranarayan set up the deceased Raja's son as king, after making him promise to pay an annual tribute, and then despatched Chilarai to wage war against the king of Tipperah. It is said that Chilarai's army consisted of 40,000 men, and that in the battle which took place, no fewer than 18,000 men of the Tipperah army were slain. The king is said to have met his death, like the king of Jaintia, at the hand of Chilarai himself. Naranarayan placed the deceased king's brother upon the vacant throne, and made him pay tribute to the extent of Rs. 10,000, one hundred gold *Mohurs*, and 30 war horses. In the meantime Viryavanta, the Raja of Khairam, having heard of Naranarayan's prowess and wishing to avoid the fate which had overtaken the kings of Jaintia and Tipperah, hastened to make submission. His tribute was fixed at 15,000 Rupees, 900 gold coins, 50 horses and 30 elephants. He was also made to promise not to stamp coins in his own name, but in that of Naranarayan. The next victory was over the Raja of Dimuria who was taken prisoner, but was subsequently released on his undertaking to pay an annual tribute of Rs. 7,000. In the course of this expedition, Naranarayan is said to have straightened the course of the Brahmaputra opposite Pándunath, a place near the foot of the Nilàchal hill, some four miles west of Gauhati. After

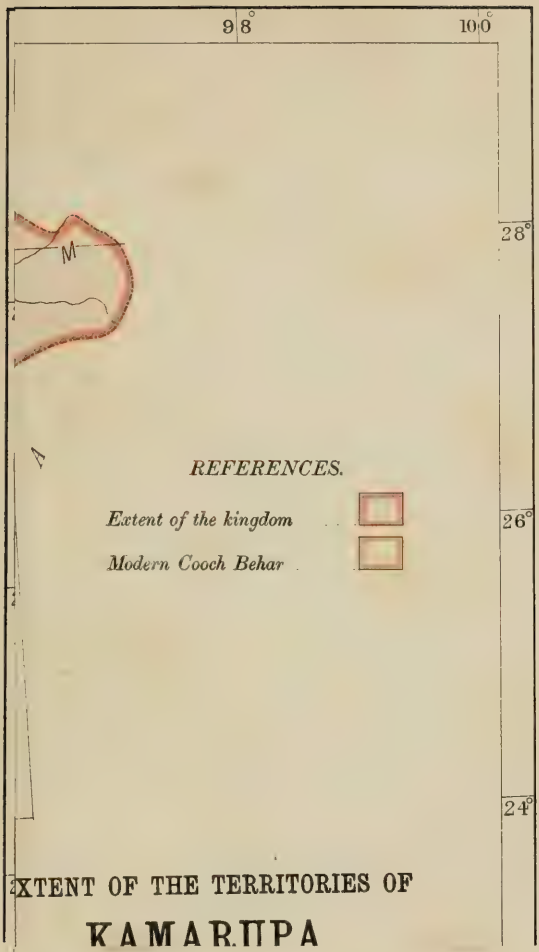
Extent of Koch kingdom under Naranarayana.

Thus in the time of Maharaja Naranarayan Cooch Behar was an extensive kingdom, and comprised, in addition to the little State of Cooch Behar of the present day, almost the whole of Northern Bengal, Bhutan and Assam, as well as the modern States of Káchár, Jaintia, Manipur and Tipperah, and extended up to the coast of the Bay of Bengal. Naranarayan was decidedly the most powerful of the kings of the large extent of the country which once formed the ancient Hindu kingdom of Kamarupa. He through his brother Sukladhaja repaired and added to the great temple of Kamakshya situated near the ancient city of Pragjyotisha, modern Gauhati, which had been destroyed by Kalapahar. On its summit a cupola of gold was placed ; and a little in advance of it a second temple or *Natamandir* was erected. This *Natamandir* was called Pancharatna. An account of all this is engraven in sanskrit verse on a silver plate fixed to the stones over the door-way of the Pancharatna.[79] And within the building in front are images in stone of Maharaja Naranarayan and his brother Sukladhaja. He arranged the services of the temples, and provided for their maintenance by making grants of Devottar lands to all the *Sebaets* or officiating Brahmans. He also apportioned lands to the support of the servants of the temples. Even at the present day *Nirmalya* or flowers offered to the goddess Kamakshya are regularly sent to the Cooch Behar Rajbari.

Re-building of the temple of Kamakshya.

stopping some time at a village named Roha, Naranarayan determined to attack the king of Siratha (Sylhet), whose kingdom is described as being near Jaintia, and who is said to have been a very powerful prince. Messengers were sent calling upon him to submit, but this he refused to do, and Chilarai was accordingly despatched with a strong force to overcome him. He met the army of the Sylhet king, and a battle took place which lasted three days. At the end of this time as the scale of victory still hung in the balance, Chilarai become impatient and so seizing his sword and shield, he rushed forward like the kite, from which he took his name, and attacked the hostile army. It is related that 100,000 soldiers fell before his all-destroying sword, and that at last the king of Sylhet himself was slain. The king's brother Asirai then tendered his submission and returned with Chilarai to the court of Naranarayan, who appointed him king in the place of his brother, and fixed his tribute at 100 elephants, 200 horses, 300,000 Rupees, and 10,000 gold coins."—Gait's 'Koch Kings of Kamarupa.'

[79] লোকানুগ্রহ কারকঃ করুণয়া পার্থো ধনুর্ব্বিদ্যয়া
দানেনাপি দধীচি কর্ণ সদৃশো মর্য্যাদয়াম্ভোনিধিঃ ॥
নানাশাস্ত্রবিচারচারুচরিতঃ কন্দর্পরূপোজ্জ্বলঃ
কামাখ্যাচরণার্চ্চকো বিজয়তে শ্রীমন্নদেবোনৃপঃ ॥
প্রাসাদমদ্রিদুহিতুশ্চরণার বিন্দ
ভক্ত্যাকরোতুদনুজোবরনীল শৈলে ।
শ্রীশুক্রদেবইমমুন্নসিতোপলেন
শাকে তুরঙ্গ-গজ-বেদ-শশাঙ্ক সংখ্যে ॥
তস্যৈব প্রিয় সোদরঃ পৃথুযশাশ্রীরেন্দ্র মৌলিস্থলী
মাণিক্যং ভজমান কল্পবিটপী নিলাচলে মঙ্গলং ।
প্রাসাদং মুণি-নাগ-বেদ-শশভুচ্ছাকে শিলারাজিভি
র্দ্ধৈর্যভক্তিমতাং বরো রচিতবান্ শ্রীপূর্ব্ব শুক্রধ্বজঃ ॥



XTENT OF THE TERRITORIES OF

KAMARUPA


88°
90°
92°
94°
96°
98°
100
28°
26°
24°
22°
HIMALAYA MOUNTAINS
NEPAL
SIKKIM
BHUTAN
Darjiling
Julpaigari
Cooch Behar
Purniah
Dinajpur
Rungpur
Ghoraghat
Malda
Begru
MYMENSINGH
SYLHET
CACHAR
MANIPUR
TIPPERAH
LUSHAI
Rampur
Moorshidabad
Patna
Dacca
COMILLA
BHULUA
Calcutta
HUGLI R.
BAY OF BENGAL
Bijni
Gwalpara
Dhubri
Gowhatti
BRAHMAPUTRA R.
GANGES R.
KOSSIA
JAINTIA
HILLS
ARROWS
STATES
BRAHMA
PUTRA
REFERENCES.
Extent of the kingdom
Modern Cooch Behar
EXTENT OF THE TERRITORIES OF
KAMARUPA
IN
MAHARAJA NARA NARAYAN'S TIME
(Shewn roughly in modern map).

Encouragement to learning and religion

The chief merit of the reign lay in the encouragement which the learned men and the cause of learning in general received from the court. Purushottama Vidyavagisha Bhattacharya, who was the Pandit attached to the court of Maharaja Naranarayan, composed under the command of the king a good Sanskrit Grammar called Prayoga Ratnamala[80] which is the most important text book on grammar now read in the Sanskrit *toles* of Cooch Behar and Assam. Rama Sarasvati translated the Bhagavata Purana into the native dialect. Under the auspices of the king the *shastras* were published, and even the common people were made to study religious books.

Sáktaism was the State religion, but Vaishnavism was more than tolerated, and great honour was done to Sankara Deva, Deva Damodara, and other Vaishnava divines. The country enjoyed a period of peace and religion, and trade throve exceedingly.

Madhupur *Dham.*

The *Vaishnava dhám* of Madhupur was founded in this reign by Sankara Deva. His son Ramananda used to live here.

Division of the country between Naranarayana and Sukladhvaja.

In this reign the country was divided into two portions ; and Maharaja Naranarayan made over the portion of the kingdom east of the Sankos to his brother Sukladhvaja who thenceforth became the ruler of Assam or Eastern Kamarupa. Maharaja Naranarayana was thus the last of the Koch kings who ruled over the vast territories comprised by the old kingdom of Kamarupa. His descendants, as will appear hereafter, held sway over the western part of Kamarupa for the next two centuries.

Fortifications of Chila Rai in Cooch-Behar.

Before Sukladhvaja had removed to his newly formed kingdom he had his residence in Taluk Fulbari within Pargana Tufangunj, which forms the easternmost tract of Cooch Behar, where remains of embankments, fortifications, and tanks ascribed to him, are still in existence. Several Taluks of the Pargana are named after Chilarai, the popular appellation of this prince. The present families of Bijni, Durrang, and Beltala are descended from Sukladhvaja.

Descendants of Sukladhvaja.

Death of the king in 1587 A. D.

After a successful reign of 33 years Maharaja Naranarayan died in the 78th year of the *Raja Shaka*, corresponding with 993 B. E. and 1587 A. D.

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[80] শ্রীমল্লদেবস্য গুণৈক সিন্ধো
শ্শ্রীহী মহেন্দ্রস্য যথা নিদেশম্।
যত্নাৎ প্রয়োগোত্তম রত্নমালা
বিতন্যতে শ্রীপুরুষোত্তমেন ॥

—Preface to Ratnamala, Stanza 3.

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Sáktaism was the State religion, but Vaishnavism was more than tolerated, and great honour was done to Sankara Deva, Deva Damodara, and other Vaishnava divines. The country enjoyed a period of peace and religion, and trade throve exceedingly.

The *Vaishnava dhám* of Madhupur was founded in this reign by Sankara Deva. His son Ramananda used to live here. Madhupur *Dham.*

In this reign the country was divided into two portions ; and Maharaja Naranarayan made over the portion of the kingdom east of the Sankos to his brother Sukladhvaja who thenceforth became the ruler of Assam or Eastern Kamarupa. Maharaja Naranarayana was thus the last of the Koch kings who ruled over the vast territories comprised by the old kingdom of Kamarupa. His descendants, as will appear hereafter, held sway over the western part of Kamarupa for the next two centuries. Division of the country between Naranarayana and Sukladhvaja.

Before Sukladhvaja had removed to his newly formed kingdom he had his residence in Taluk Fulbari within Pargana Tufangunj, which forms the easternmost tract of Cooch Behar, where remains of embankments, fortifications, and tanks ascribed to him, are still in existence. Several Taluks of the Pargana are named after Chilarai, the popular appellation of this prince. The present families of Bijni, Durrang, and Beltala are descended from Sukladhvaja. Fortifications of Chila Rai in Cooch-Behar. Descendants of Sukladhvaja.

After a successful reign of 33 years Maharaja Naranarayan died in the 78th year of the *Raja Shaka*, corresponding with 993 B. E. and 1587 A. D. Death of the king in 1587 A. D.

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[80] শ্রীমল্লদেবস্য গুণৈক সিন্ধো
শ্শ্রীহী মহেন্দ্রস্য যথা নিদেশম্।
যত্নাৎ প্রয়োগোত্তম রত্নমালা
বিতন্যতে শ্রীপুরুষোত্তমেন ॥
—Preface to Ratnamala, Stanza 3.

CHAPTER VI.

INDEPENDENT KOCH KINGS OF WESTERN KAMARUPA.

LAKSHMI NARAYAN——RUPA NARAYAN.

1587—1714.

IV. LAKSHMINARAYAN.

[*Rája Shaka 78—112 ; 994—1028 B. E. ; 1587-1621 A. D.*]

Installation.

On the death of Maharaja Naranarayan his only son Lakshminarayan succeeded to the throne. Coins were struck in his name, and the Raikat of Bykunthapur and other ministers of the State brought their *nuzzars* to the king in the newly coined money. Letters of congratulation with presents were received from other lands.

Gaur wrested by the Moghals.

Lakshminarayan turned out a weak prince, and neglected the duties of state. At this time Akbar was the Emperor of Delhi. His General Ali Kooli Khan (Shere Afgan) conquered Gaur and other countries in the west of the kingdom[81]. The king never went out to war himself but only sent his troops. They returned defeated and many of them were killed. Anirudhra, son of Narasinha, died in battle with the Musalmans. His sons escaped and came to Panga.

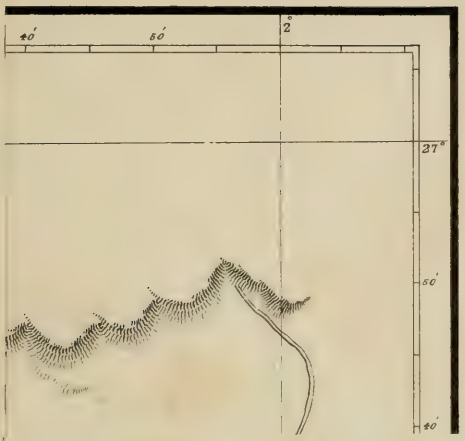
Internal troubles.

In the year 1596 A. D. Lakshminarayan visited Raja Man Sinha, the Deputy Governor of Orissa under Akbar, and professed himself a vassal of the Moghal Emperor. This conduct gave offence to his relations and neighbouring princes. They united against him and compelled him to take refuge in his fort whence he wrote to the Governor of Bengal requesting him to send a force to his relief. This event gave the Moghals the first opportunity of entering Cooch Behar. A considerable detatchment was sent from Bengal under the command of Jehaz Khan who quickly dispersed the rebels and returned to Bengal laden with plunder[82].

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[81] At this time the extent of the country was large, and the military resources were very great. The territory of Cooch Behar "was bounded on the east by the river Brahmaputra ; on the south by Ghoraghat ; on the west by Tirhoot ; and on the north by the mountains of Thibet and Assam." The king "is said to have possessed an army of 1,00,000 infantry, 4,000 cavalry, 700 elephants, and 1,000 war-boats."—Stewart's History of Bengal, page 187.

[82] Stewart's History of Bengal, pages 187—88. There is no mention of this in the Rajopakshyana.


40'
50'
2°
27°
50'
40'



Map of the
COOCH BEHAR STATE
OF 1779
REPRODUCTED FROM MAJOR RENNELL'S ATLAS OF BENGAL WITH OLD SPELLINGS OF NAMES, &c.

Scale 1 Inch = 12 Miles, or 760320.

"The former (Kaljani) being by far the larger river of the two, Major Rennell, as usual with European geographers, seems to have considered as the proper Chhonnokush, which probably induced him to curtail the territory of the Vihar Raja by about 200 square miles." MARTIN'S EASTERN INDIA, VOL. III, PP. 381-82. Besides minor inaccuracies in other parts of the boundary, the map altogether leaves out the eastern part of the country comprised by the modern Parganah of Tufangunge. ED.

Reg. No. 200 Dewan of the Cooch Behar State.—Feb. 63 —1000.

Lithe. S. I. Calcutta

Treaty with Jehangir.

During the reign of Emperor Jehangir, who succeeded Akbar to the throne of Delhi, the Mahomedan governor of Gaur invaded Cooch Behar with a strong force and subdued Ghoraghat and some other districts, and threw the remaining provinces into terrible disorder. The hostilities came to an end on the king consenting to go to Delhi for an interview with the Emperor. Eventually a treaty was made between the Emperor and the king to the effect that the Emperor should not seize on any territory held by the king, and the king should not seize on any territory belonging to the Emperor ; that the Narayani rupee should no longer be a full one ; and that no one belonging to the Emperor should be permitted to injure the king.

Deva Damodara, and Damodarapura *Dham.*

Owing to the persecution of Parikshitnarayan, king of Assam, Deva Damodara, the renowned Vaishnava preacher of Assam, and a contemporary of Chaitanya Deva, had to leave his native land. He sought refuge in Cooch Behar where the Maharaja accorded him a splendid reception. Lakshminarayan did great honour to the saint, by whom he was initiated into the *Vishnu Mantra*. Damodara thus became the Raja-guru, which place of honour was held by the *Damodara-panthi* Gosvamis after him for above a century, until they were ousted by the father of the regicide Ramananda, and *Sakti*-worship was re-established in the royal family. The *dhama* of Damodarpur was established by the Maharaja some time in the second decade of the sixteenth century of the *shaka* era, where the Vaishnava preacher lived until his death in 1520 *shakabda* (1598 A. D.)[83]

Sons of the king.

Maharaja Lakshminarayan had 18 sons of whom Biranarayan was by the *patrani* or queen-consort. He built *atharakotha* or eighteen houses for his eighteen sons. All the sons grew up to be able men, and three of them, Bajranarayan, Bhimnarayan, and Mahinarayan became powerful.

First Nazir

Up to this time the post of the Nazir or Commander of the army was held by a Brahman. For some special reason the Brahman Nazir was dismissed, and Mahinarayan was made Nazir. This Mahinarayan was the ancestor of the Nazir Deo family of Balarampur.

Death of the king.

After a reign of 35 years Maharaja Lakshminarayan died in the 112th year of the *Raja Shaka*, corresponding with 1028 B. E., and 1621 A. D.

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83 কৃষ্ণোনিজধামগোঽখিলজনান্ দৃষ্ট্বাতুপাপাশয়ান্
স্বধর্ম্মপ্রথনেচ্ছয়া কলিযুগে দামোদরাখ্যোঽভবৎ।
শাকে দিঙ্মনুসংশয়ে বিগলিতে ধর্ম্মান্ জনান্ গ্রাহয়ন্
শাকে খংকর বাণচন্দ্র গণিতেঽগচ্ছৎ পুনর্ধাম সঃ ॥—Damodara Charitamrita.

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Sons of the king.

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Death of the king.

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[83] কৃষ্ণোনিজধামগোঽখিলজনান্ দৃষ্ট্বাতুপাপাশয়ান্
স্বধর্ম্মপ্রথমেচ্ছয়া কলিযুগে দামোদরাখ্যোঽভবৎ।
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শাকে খংকর বাণচন্দ্র গণিতেঽগচ্ছৎ পুনর্ধামি সঃ ॥—Damodara Charitamrita.

V.—BIRANARAYAN.

[*Raja Shaka 113—117 : 1028—1033 B. E ; 1621—1625 A. D.*]

Loss of martial glory.

Maharaja Biranarayan succeeded his father Lakshminarayan to the throne in 1621 A. D. His reign was marked by loss of martial glory, and rapid falling off of territories. Bhutan broke off allegiance and ceased to pay tribute. The Raikat ceased to be a tributary, and did not not hold the umbrella over the king's head at his coronation.

Capital removed to Atharakotha.

Biranarayan removed his capital to Atharakotha. He had also a residence at Mandalavasha where some of his wives lived. He was a great encourager of learning, and established schools in different places. He gave his sons a good education all of whom grew up to be learned men.

Character of the king.

Death.

The king appointed his son Prananarayan to be the heir-apparent, and after a short reign of 5 years died in the 117th year of the *Raja Shaka*, corresponding with 1033 B. E., and 1625 A.D.

VI.—PRANANARAYAN.

[*Raja Shaka 117—156 ; 1033—1072 B. E ; 1625—1665 A. D.*]

Maharaja Prananarayan came to the throne in 1625 A. D. In the absence of the Raikat Chhatra Nazir Mahinarayan held the umbrella over him at the coronation.

Invasion of Islam Khan.

In the year 1638 A. D. Islam Khan, the Musalman Governor of Chittagong, then called Islamabad, in the course of his raids into Assam, invaded the territories of Cooch Behar. It does not, however, appear that he left any permanent marks on the country.[84]

Mir Jumla's incursions.

The next Mahomedan invasion of the country took place in 1661 A. D. Mir Jumla, the Governor of Bengal, with the object of recovering Kamarupa and several other Moghal districts adjoining the territories of Cooch Behar which had been seized by Maharaja Prananarayan, marched upon the town of Cooch Behar at the head of a large army, and took possession of the capital. The king took to flight and concealed himself in the woods and hills. Mir Jumla had an intention of retaining possession of the country, and appointed Syad Mahammad Saduk to be the chief judge, with direction to destroy all the Hindu temples and to erect mosques in their stead. Except in the matter of religion he would not permit his troops to be guilty of any injustice to the people, and instituted a court expressly for the punishment of plunderers or other offenders.

[84] Stewart's History of Bengal, Section VI, pp. 246-47. There is, however, no mention of this in the Cooch Behar chronicles.



Photo Block

Survey of India Offices, Calcutta, 1903.

THE TEMPLE OF GOSANIMARI—*Page 237.*

With the treacherous co-operation of Vishnunarayan, the eldest son of the king, who had the ambition of seizing the throne, a Musalman general was sent out for the capture of the fugitive king who had taken refuge in a hill-fort of Bhutan ; but this impious attempt was not successful. The army, however, captured the prime minister. They also found in the wood 250 guns and much property, all of which was forwarded to Dacca, the then capital of Bengal. Treachery of the king's eldest son.

Mir Jumla, having settled the revenues of Cooch Behar at ten lacs of Narayani rupees and made his arrangements, left 1,400 horse, and 2,000 musketeers under the command of Isfundiar Beg to support the new government, and proceeded to the conquest of Assam.

During the absence of Mir Jumla in Assam, the Mahomedan officials by their oppressions and tyrannical conduct so disgusted the inhabitants, that they rose in a body, and solicited their king to return among them and again to assume the reins of government. The king returned with a powerful army and drove back the Mahomedans to Gauhati. Mir Jumla was coming back to reconquer the country ; but he fell ill on the way and began to return, but died before reaching Dacca.[85]

Maharaja Prananarayan was a learned sanskrit scholar in grammar, literature and the Smriti Shastra, a clever poet, and a man of remarkable memory. He was an expert in the art of singing and dancing, and wrote a treatise on the subject, the manuscript copy of which was destroyed by a fire, and has thus been lost to the present generation. He formed a Pancha Ratna Sava (the society of five gems) consisting of five members of vast erudition. Character of Prananarayan.

As a great encourager of religion, he erected a brick temple for Siva Jalpeswar, another for Baneswar, and a third for Sandeswar after whom the eastern tract of the country, called Sandara, has been named. He also erected the temple of Gosanimari, the presiding deity of old Kamatapur, in the year 1587 of the *shaka* era, corresponding with 1665 A. D., and made a liberal endowment Building of temples of Jalpeswar, Baneswar, Sandeswar, and Gosanimari.

[85] Stewart's History of Bengal, section VI, pp. 287—94. The Cooch Behar chronicles are, however, silent on the point. Mir Jumla is said to have broken the image of Naranarayan with his battle-axe ; but there is even no tradition regarding this in the country. He has left no mark on the country, and the silence of the author of the Rajopakshyan on the point may be due to that reason. There is also a confusion of names in the Mahomedan history. At the time of Mir Jumla's invasion (1861) the reigning king was Prananarayan, and not Bhimnarayan who was the king's uncle or father's brother. Vishnunarayan was Prananarayan's son, and not of Bhimnarayan. Mr. Gait in his 'Koch Kings of Kamarupa' has noticed this discrepancy.

for the worship of the goddess. An account of this has already appeared.[86] He also had high roads and bridges constructed here and there.

Maharaja Prananarayan has left a great name, and his reign was most prosperous. He greatly encouraged the cause of religion and Hindu religious observances; and religious conversation became popular every where in his time.

Sons of the king.

Prananarayan had three sons, of whom the first was Vishnunarayan, the second, Modanarayan, and the third, Vasudevanarayan.

King's illness and death.

After a long reign of 39 years, Maharaja Prananarayan fell ill in 1665 A. D. When the king was lying on his death-bed, a rumour went abroad that he was dead. Nazir Mahinarayan forthwith advanced upon the capital at the head of his troops, accompanied by his four sons Darpanarayan, Jagatnarayan, Jagnanarayan, and Chandranarayan, and attempted to seize the throne. When, however, he came to know that the king was yet alive, he was covered with shame, and retired to his camp. On the third day after this the king died in the 156th year of the *Raja shaka*, corresponding with 1665 A. D.

VII.—MODANARAYAN.

[*Raja Shaka 156—171; 1072—1087 B. E; 1665—1680 A. D.*]

Growth of Mahinarayn's powers.

On the death of Maharaja Prananarayan, there was an attempt on the part of Nazir Mahinarayan's four sons to seize the throne. The brothers, however, quarrelled among themselves, and Mahinarayan to pacify them all raised the last king's second son Modanarayan to the throne, but virtually kept all powers in his own hands, by appointing a creature of his own as the chief minister in charge of the Civil administration, while he remained the head of the Military. The king had very little power. He naturally felt his helpless condition, and after some years managed to win over to his side some of the troops. With their assistance he slew some and expelled others of Nazir Mahinarayan's creatures from the court. This led to a battle between the king and Mahinarayan, in which the latter was defeated, and fled from the country. Mahinarayan's fourth son, Chandranarayan, was slain in battle, and his three other sons escaped to Bhutan. Mahinarayan went about from place to place under the garb of a *sannyasi*, a fact which earned for him the name of '*Gosain* Mahinarayan.' After a time he came to Bykunthapur. The Raikat, however, did not give shelter to Mahi-

Mahinarayan's fight with the king, defeat and death.

[86] *Vide ante*, pages 91 and 95.

narayan, and the king, hearing of his whereabouts, sent men to seize him. In the scuffle that ensued between the king's men and the fugitive rebel, the latter was killed.

The troubles did not, however, cease with the death of Mahinarayan. His sons, now, with the assistance of the Bhutias, invaded the country, but were ultimately defeated.

Owing to these internal dissensions, the king was troubled and the government was not properly carried on. After a disturbed reign of fifteen years, the king died in 1715t year of the *Rája Shaká* (1680 A. D.) without any issue. With the death of Maharaja Modnarayan one line of Vishva Sinha's family became extinct, and the order of succession from father to son ceased. Disorder in government, and king's death.

VIII.—Vasudevanarayan.

[*Raja shaka 1715—1735 ; 1087—1089 B. E. 1680—1682 A. D.*]

On the death of Maharaja Modanarayan without any issue, an attempt was again made by Mahinarayan's three sons to seize the throne with the assistance of Bhutias. The last king's ministers sent word to the Raikats at Bykunthapur, who (Jagadev and Bhujadev Raikat) hastened to the capital with a large army and drove away the rebels, but not before the latter had massacred some of the inhabitants, and taken a few others prisoners, and plundered the capital. In the course of this plundering, the Bhutias took away the royal umbrella, the sceptre, the throne made by Vihsva Sinha, his sword, and all other insignia held sacred by the kings. Bhutia incursion put down by Raikats of Bykunthapur.

The Raikats now placed Basudevanarayan, the third and only surviving son of Maharaja Prananarayan, on the throne, and, after the installation was over, went to Bykunthapur. The new king was only two years on the throne, when Mahinarayan's sons again attacked the capital with the assistance of Bhutan. A battle ensued in which the king's troops were routed, and the king fled to the palace. He was, however, pursued ; and as he was mounting a horse to depart to a distant place, he was surrounded by the enemy's troops, and by Jajnanarayan's orders his head was cut off. Renewal of Bhutia attack and massacre of the king.

Jajnanarayan contemplated seizing the throne. In the meantime news of the disaster had reached Bykunthapur, and the Raikats Jagadev and Bhujadev forthwith advanced upon Cooch Behar with a large army. A battle was fought on the left bank of the Manshai in which Mahinarayan's sons were defeated. The Raikats hastened to the palace and found it utterly deserted, while the dead bodies lay scattered about. Throne restored to ruling line by intervention of Raikats.

Maharaja Prânanarayan's great-grandson, an infant of the name of Mahendranarayan, son of Mananarayan, who had escaped the massacre of Jajnanarayan, was now made king by the Raikats in the 173rd year of the *Râja Shaka*, corresponding with 1089 B. E., and 1682 A. D.

IX.—MAHENDRANARAYAN.

[*Raja Shaka 173-184 ; 1089—1100 B. E. ; 1682—1693 A. D.*]

Peace with Nazir Deo's family.

Mahendranarayan was only five years old, when he ascended the throne of Cooch Behar. Of the three sons of Nazir Mahinarayan, Darpanarayan had died during the last reign, leaving two sons, Santanarayan and Satyanarayan. The surviving sons, Jagatnarayan and Jajnanarayan, were now constantly disturbing the kingdom. After some years, both the Raikats died, and the young king became in a manner helpless. Officers of the State entrusted with the administration of distant territories assumed independence. In the Bengali year 1194, or 1687 A. D., the Moghals under the leadership of Ebadat Khan advanced from Ghoraghat, and seized upon district after district belonging to Cooch Behar. In this emergency the ministers of the State on behalf of the young king made peace with Jajnanarayan, who only amongst Mahinarayan's sons was now alive, and appointed him Chhatra Nazir. Jajnanarayan opposed the Mahomedans, but without any effect. The Musalmans occupied the three central *chaklas* of Fatepur, Kazirhat and Kankina. These three *chaklas* appear to have been conquered without much difficulty.

Conquest of Rangpur by the Moghals.

Treachery of local governors.

The officers in charge of these as well as Tepa, Manthona Jhori, and other Parganas, taking advantange of the disturbed state of affairs, played a treacherous part, and, consenting to pay a tribute to the Subha of Bengal, obtained *sunnads* in their own names, and became zemindars. Panga and Bykunthapur transferred their allegiance to the Musalmans, and agreed to pay them a nominal tribute.

Chaklas Boda, Patgram and Purvabhag not conquered.

The attempt of the Mahomedans to conquer the chaklas of Boda, Patgram and Purvabhag was not successful. The natural position of these Chaklas protected them for a long time, and they a offered a desperate resistance. It was not until the next reign that they could be subjugated.

Nazir Jajnanarayon died in the 182 *Raja Shaka* without leaving any issue. Four grandsons of Mahinarayan, namely, Shantanarayan and Satyanarayan, sons of Darpanarayan, and Rupanarayan and Visvanarayan, sons of Jagatnarayan, now became commanders of the army. The king reluctantly conferred the Chhatra Nazirship on Shantanarayan.

Maharaja Mahendranarayan after a nominal reign of 11 years died in 1693 A. D. at the age of sixteen. Death of Mahendranarayan.

X.—Rupanarayan.

[*Raja Shaka* 185—205 ; 1101—1121 B. E. ; 1693—1714 A. D.]

On the death of Maharaja Mahendranarayan, Santanarayan, the Chhatra Nazir, aspired to be king ; but the army was opposed to it, besides which, he had already great powers owing to his being the Nazir or Commander-in-Chief. His brother's son Rupanarayan was therefore raised to the throne, while his own brother Satyanarayan was made the Dewan or chief minister of civil affairs. This took place in the 185 Raja Shaka, corresponding with 1101 B. E. and 1693 A. D. With Mahendranarayan the main line of kings had become extinct, and Maharaja Rupanarayan became the ancestor of the next line of kings, who were descended from Nazir Deo Mahinarayan's family, which had all along possessed power and influence in the administration of the country. First king from Nazir Deo's family.

The Mahomedans renewed their attack upon *Chaklas* Boda, Patgram and Purvabhag. After a hard struggle to retain their independence for seventeen years, a treaty was made with the Musalmans in 1118 B. E. or 1711 A. D. By this these *chaklas* were nominally ceded to the Mahomedans, but still continued to be held in farm by Shantanarayan on behalf of the Maharaja. As it was considered derogatory to an independent prince to be a vassal of the Musalmans, the lease of the lands was taken out in the name of the Nazir Deo. Conquest of Boda, Patgram and Purvabhag. Treaty with Musalmans.

Maharaja Rupanarayan was thus the last of the Koch Kings who held sway over Western Kamarupa. From his time the extent of the kingdom was virtually confined to the present State of Cooch Behar.

Rupanarayan removed his capital from Atharakota to Guriahati on the east bank of the Torsa. The site then occupied forms a part of the present Cooch Behar town. The Nazir Deo founded a city ten miles south-east of the capital, and called it Balarampur, after the image of Balaram, and took up his abode there. The Dewan Deo lived at a place called Baramkhana. Removal of capital to Guriahati. Balarampur founded.

Nazir Deo Santanarayan died in the year 1700 A. D. As he had no issue, he had adopted Lalitnarayan, second son of Bisvanarayan, the king's youngest brother. Lalitnarayan was appointed to the Nazirship after Santanarayan's death.

Maharaja Rupanarayan was profoundly versed in all religious knowledge, and became celebrated for his sanctity. He con- Character of the king.

structed an image of idol Madan Mohan and established a magnificient worship. After a reign of 21 years the king died in 1714 A. D.

His death.

CHAPTER VII.

INDEPENDENT KINGS OF COOCH BEHAR.

UPENDRANARAYAN——DHAIRYENDRANARAYAN.

1714—1783.

XI.—UPENDRANARAYAN.

[*Rája Shaká 205—254; 1121—1170 B. E; 1714—1763 A. D.*]

Mahomedan invasion incited by Dinanarayan.

Maharaja Rupnarayan was succeeded by his eldest son Upendranarayan. During this reign the Bhutias, whose territory had ended at the foot of the hills, gradually extended their conquest to the plains, and the king was not powerful enough to oppose them. The Mahomedan *fauzdar* of Rangpur, at the instigation of Dinanarayan, son of Satyanarayan, Dewan Deo, who had aspired to the throne, invaded the western portion of the country. A battle was fought at Singeswar Jhar, a place on the west bank of the modern Tista, between the Mahomedans and the king's army, in which the latter were defeated. The king now made a treaty with Bhutan, and with the assistance of the Bhutias drove back the Mahomedan general into Rangpur.[87]

Deposition of Dewan Deo.

On suspicion of complicity with his son, Satyanarayan, the Dewan Deo, was deposed from the office of the Dewan, and the king's younger brother Kharganarayan was appointed to it.

Rajguru.

Maharaja Upendranarayan gave up the old line of *gurus* and became a disciple of the Gosain of Sadikhan, who, after his death, was succeeded by his son Ramananda Gosain, who instigated the murder of Devendranarayan, the next king.

Dhaliyabari.

The king had two wives, with the younger of whom he lived in a palace at Dhaliyabari, built for the purpose, while the senior queen lived at Cooch Behar.

[87] The date is not mentioned in the Rajopakshyan. A Mahomedan invasion appears to have taken place sometime in 1737—1738. About this time Syed Ahammad, the second son of Hajy Ahammed, who upon the succession of Shuja Uddin Khan had been appointed Fauzdar of Rangpur, having procured from Murshidabad a considerable army, invaded Dinajpur and Cooch Behar, and after compelling the Rajas to take refuge in the woods and mountains, got possession of their countries together with the immense treasures which the Rajas and their ancestors had amassed.—Stewart's History of Bengal, page 431.

After a reign of 49 years the king died at Dhaliyabari in 254 *Rája Shaká*, corresponding with 1170 B. E. and 1763 A. D. The senior queen placed Devendranarayan, son of the second queen, on the throne, and ascended the funeral pyre of her husband. Death of the king.

XII.—DEVENDRANARAYAN.

[*Rája Shaká 254—256 ; 1170—1172 B. E. ; 1763—1765 A. D.*]

After the death of Maharaja Upendranarayan, his son Devendranarayan, still a child, was placed on the throne, and the government was carried on by the chief ministers of the State. The Bhutias gradually became very powerful and extended their authority over the State. By degrees it came to this that a Bhutia representative with a number of Bhutia soldiers constantly resided at the capital, and without his sanction no measure of importance could be carried out. Growing power of Bhutan.

During this reign in the 255th year of the *Rája Shaká*, corresponding with 1171 B. E. and 1765 A. D., on the 12th August, the Subhas of Bengal lost their authority, and the Dewani of Bengal, Behar and Orissa was conferred on the East India Company by Shah Alam, Emperor of Delhi. The revenue for the *chaklas* hitherto paid to the Subhas, was henceforth transferred to the Company. Transfer of Dewani to the East India Company.

Only two years after his accession to the throne, the young king, who was six years old at the time, was murdered by a Brahman named Rati Sarma, at the instigation of Gosain Ramananda. He was playing with other boys on the bank of the tank called Padma Pukur, when the assassin suddenly appeared on the spot, and, before any assistance could be rendered by the body-guards, struck off the head of the Maharaja with a single blow of a sword. The guards immediately pursued the villain into the temple of Chandi, where he had taken refuge, and cut him to pieces. Assassination of the king.

XIII, XIV, XV & XVI.—DHAIRYENDRANARAYAN, RAJENDRANARAYAN, DHARENDRANARAYAN AND DHAIRYENDRANARAYAN.

[*Rája Shaká 256—274 ; 1172—1190 B. E. ; 1765—1783 A. D.*]

After the assassination of Maharaja Devendranarayan in 256 *Rája Shaká*, corresponding with 1172 B. E., and 1765 A. D., Nazir Rudranarayan attempted to place his brother's son Khagendranarayan on the throne. But Dewan Deo Ramnarayan, who was the last king's uncle's son and a grandson of Maharaja Rupanarayan, objected to this, and at last Ramnarayan's third brother, Dhairyendranarayan, was proclaimed king. The last king's assassination was avenged by the Deva Bhutan revenges the murder of the last king.

Raja of Bhutan who caused Ramananda Gosain, the instigator of the crime, to be seized and put to death. Pensatuma was appointed the Bhutia representative at the Cooch Behar court.

Nazar Deo Khagendranarayan.

Shortly after, in 1769 A. D., Rudranarayan, the Nazir Deo, died, and his brother's son, Khagendranarayan, was appointed to the Nazirship. But the leading man in the State was the Dewan Deo, who was supported by Bhutan.

Murder of Rammarayan the Dewan Deo.

The officers about the court were, however, envious of the Dewan Deo's great power, and owing to their machinations the king was blindly led to cause his own brother and benefactor, the Dewan Deo, to be treacherously murdered. The king's younger brother Surendranarayan was then made Dewan.

Forcible abduction of the king and Dewan Deo by Bhutan.

The murder of the Dewan Deo was an affront to the authority of Bhutan, and the Deva Raja caused the king and the Dewan Deo to be seized during the annual feast[88] at Chechákhátá and carried off as prisoners, in 1770 A. D., the Nazir Deo making good his escape by flight.

Rajendranarayan.

The Bhutias now raised the king's brother Rajendranarayan to the throne, who, after a short nominal reign of two years, died in 1772.

Dharendranarayan.

On hearing of the death of the king, the Nazir Deo Khagendranarayan hastened to the capital and elected Dhairyendranarayan's son Dharendranarayan, king, who was duly installed to the Raj. The Deva Raja, however, did not like that the captive king's son should be on throne, and remonstrated with Khagendranarayan against the election. The Nazir Deo, however, refused to alter his election. The Bhutias then came down in force, and on their approach the Nazir Deo took away the young Maharaja, his mother and all the royal family to Balarampur, and began to be prepared to oppose the Bhutias. The Deva Raja sent out a large force consisting of 16 *káhans* or about 20,000 men, under the command of his sister's son Jimpe,

Occupation of the capital by Bhutan.

[88] After the assassination of Maharaja Devendranarayan, the Bhutias began to extend their authority. "By degrees it came to this that a Bhutia representative resided at the capital, and without his sanction no measure of importance could be carried out. Every year, the Subah of the Buxa Duar and some of the leading Bhutias from the territories of the Deva Rájá, used to come down as far as Chechákhátá. The Maharaja with the Nazir Deo and the Dewan Deo used to go to meet them, and entertain them at a feast, with a view to which they furnished themselves with pigs, honey and other eatables. The Bhutias used to bring presents of horses, *kaichin, debánga, shetamala and Bhotmala* silks, musk, white chowries, walnuts, Bhutia ghee, Bhutia rice, etc. At the interview with the king at which they made these presents, it was customary to give them in return, presents of money double the value of the presents they brought. After that they returned to their homes, and the king went back to the capital. Such used to be the practice."—Rajopakshyana, page 73.

who overran the country, and occupied the capital. He then made Bijendranarayan, the son left by Dewan Deo Ramanarayan, Raja, and sent him to remain at Chechâkhata, where the boy soon fell a victim to the malarious climate of the region. Each party proceeded to maintain the Raja elected by it, and in the struggle than ensued the Nazir Deo was worsted and driven out of the country. The officers of the State removed the Maharaja, the Rajmata, the Maharani and others to Panga, and themselves escaped to Rangpur. With the exception of Rahimgunj, the whole country came under the occupation of the Bhutias, who built forts in various parts of the country, among which were the fortifications at Gitaldah, Bheladanga and Mawamari. The Bhutia General, Jimpe, had a fortification thrown around the palace in the town of Cooch Behar, and occupied it with a strong Bhutia force.

Treaty with the English.

In this emergency the king's party headed by the Nazir Deo applied to the Government of India for aid which was promised on certain conditions. This led to the conclusion of the following treaty, on the 5th April, 1773, between the Honourable East India Company and Cooch Behar, in which the young Maharaja was represented by Khagendranarayan, the Nazir Deo :—

Articles of Treaty between the Honourable East India Company and Dharendranarayan Raja of Cooch Behar.

'Dharendranarayan, Raja of Cooch Behar, having represented to the Honourable the President and Council of Calcutta the present distressed state of the country, owing to its being harassed by the independent Rajas, who are in league to depose him, the Honourable the President and Council, from a love of justice and desire of assisting the distressed, have agreed to send a force, consisting of four companies of *sipáhies*, and a field-piece, for the protection of the said Raja and his country against his enemies ; and the following conditions are mutually agreed on :—

'1st.—That the said Raja will immediately pay into the hands of the Collector of Rangpur Rs. 50,000 to defray the expenses of the force sent to assist him.

'2nd.—That if more than Rs. 50,000 are expended, the Raja make it good to the Honourable the English East India Company, but in case any part of it remains unexpended that it be delivered back.

'3rd.—That the Raja will acknowledge subjection to the will of the English East India Company upon his country being cleared of his enemies, and will allow the Cooch Behar country to be annexed to the Province of Bengal.[89]

[89] For an exposition of this article of the treaty, *vide post* p. 257. The right of annexation was waived by Government.

'4th.—That the Raja further agrees to make over to the English East India Company one-half of the annual revenues of Cooch Behar for ever.

'5th.—That the other moiety shall remain to the Raja and his heirs for ever, provided he is firm in his allegiance to the Honourable United East India Company.

'6th.—That in order to ascertain the value of the Cooch Behar country, the Raja will deliver a 'hastabud' (revenue statement) of his district into the hands of such person as the Honourable the President and Council of Calcutta shall think proper to depute for that purpose, upon which valuation the annual Malguzari (assessment) which the Raja is to pay, shall be established.

'7th.—That the amount of Malguzari settled by such person as the Honourable East India Company shall depute, shall be perpetual.

'8th.—That the Honourable East India Company shall always assist the Raja with a force when he has occasion for it, for the defence of the country, the Raja bearing the expense.

'9th.—That this treaty shall remain in force for the space of two years, or till such time as advices may be received from the Court of Directors empowering the President and Council to ratify the same for ever.

'This treaty signed, and sealed, and concluded, by the Honourable the President and Council at Fort William, the fifth day of April 1773, on the one part, and by Dharendranarayan Raja of Cooch Behar, at Behar Fort, the 6th Magh 1179, Bengal Style, on the other part.'

Defeat of the Bhutias, and release of the Maharaja and Dewan Deo.

After the conclusion of the Treaty a small force, consisting of four companies of sepoys and two field-guns, under the command of Captain Jones, came up to the town of Cooch Behar. The force took the town by storm, and not only drove back the Bhutias beyond the frontier, but followed them up across the Duars, and, entering the hills, captured the forts of Passâkhâ, and Dalimkote, as well as the stockade of Chichakhâtâ, at which latter place a somewhat determined resistance was made by the Bhutias.[90]

These successes so pressed the Bhutias that they immediately applied for assistance to the Thibetian Government, at the time presided over by Tisoo Lama, through whose intervention a

[90] Rennie's Bhutan War, Chapter II.

treaty[91] was concluded with Bhutan on the 25th April 1774, and agreeably to the third article of that treaty, Maharaja Dhairyendranarayan and his brother Surendranarayan, the Dewan Deo, were released.[92]

Dhairyendranarayan resumes government.

Although the old king now returned to the country and resumed the Government of the State, he was in a melancholy state of mind, and never afterwards showed any disposition to take any

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[91] *Translation of the Treaty made with Bhutan in 1774.*

"Articles of a Treaty between the Honourable East India Company and the Deva Raja, or Raja of Bhutan.

"1. That the Honourable Company, wholly from consideration for the distress to which the Bhutias represent themselves to be reduced, and from the desire of living in peace with their neighbours, will relinquish the lands which belonged to the Deva Raja before the commencement of the war with the Raja of Cooch Behar, namely, to the eastward of the lands of Chichakhata and Paglahaut, and to the westward of the lands of Kyranti, Maraghat and Luckeepur.

"2. That for the possession of the Chichakhata province, the Deva Raja shall pay an annual tribute of five Tangan horses to the Honourable Company, which was the acknowledgment paid to the Cooch Behar Raja.

"3. That the Deva Raja shall deliver up Dhairyenarayan, Raja of Cooch Behar, together with his brother, the Dewan Deo, who is confined with him.

"4. That the Bhutias, being merchants, shall have the same privileges of trade as formerly, without the payment of duties, and their caravan shall be allowed to go to Rangpore annually.

"5. That the Deva Raja shall never cause incursions to be made into the country, nor in any respect whatever, molest the ryots that have come under the Honourable Company's subjection.

"6. That if any ryot or inhabitant whatever, shall desert from the Honourable Company's territories, the Deva Raja shall cause them to be delivered up immediately upon application being made to him.

"7. That in case the Bhutias, or any one under the Government of the Deva Raja, shall have any demands upon, or disputes with any of the inhabitants of these or any part of the Company's territories, they shall prosecute them by an application to the Magistrate who shall reside here for the administration of justice.

"8. That whatever Sanyasis are considered by the English as an enemy, the Deva Raja will not allow to take shelter in any part of the districts now given up, nor permit them to enter into the Honourable Company's territories, or through any part of his ; and if the Bhutias shall not of themselves be able to drive them out, they shall give information to the Resident on the part of the English in Cooch Behar and they shall not consider the English troops pursuing the Sanyasis into these districts as any breach of this treaty.

"9. That in case the Honourable Company shall have occasion for cutting timbers from any part of the woods under the hills, they shall do it duty-free, and the people they send shall be protected.

"10. That there shall be a mutual release of prisoners.

"This treaty to be signed by the Honourable President and Council of Bengal, and the Honourable Company's seal to be affixed on the one part, and to be signed and sealed by the Deva Raja on the other part."

The following signatures on the part of the Government of India are appended to this treaty :—Warren Hastings, William Andersey, P. M. Daires, J. Lawrel, Henry Goodwin, H. Graham, and George Vansitart.

[92] The place where Maharaja Dhairyendranarayan first took rice after his return, lies in the Western Duars and is named after the event *Rájá-bhát-khawá*.

Power of Maharani and Gosain.

share in the management of the affairs of the kingdom. The whole management fell into the hands of the Maharani and her favourite Sarvananda Gosain, the Rajguru.

Their disagreement with Nazir Deo.

The Nazir Deo did not pull on well with the Maharani and the Gosain, and they disagreed and quarrelled even on small matters. The Nazir Deo practically stopped crediting the revenues of the *Châklas* to the State, while the Maharani's party often seized the Naziran lands set apart for the maintenance of the Nazir Deo, and meeting the expenses of the army.

Shortly after, a dispute again arose between Cooch Behar and Bhutan, regarding the district now called the Western Duars. This was, under orders of the Governor General, adjusted by the Dinajpur Council according to the treaty of 1774 concluded by the British Government with Bhutan. By this, Taluks Chechakhata, Paglahat, Lakshmi Duar, Kyranti and Maraghat, which had originally belonged to Cooch Behar and had been forcibly dispossessed by the Bhutias, were adjudged to Bhutan. This adjustment was made in 1777. Neither of the parties, however, acted up to the settlement, and disputes again arose, which remained unsettled at the close of this reign.

Collection of tribute.

The tribute agreed to be paid to British Government in the treaty of 1773, was collected by the Collector of Rangpur. Up to 1780 the tribute was realised by committing the total collections of the State to *Sazwals* or *Tehsildars* appointed by British Government, and from the total collections the *Sajwals* deducted the half share of Government and paid over the other half to the State.

Amount finally fixed.

The amount of tribute was, however, permanently fixed at Rs. 67,700-15-0 in 1780, on the strength of the *Hastabud* of the revenue of the Raja prepared by Mr. Purling.

Birth of Harendranarayan.

Dharendranarayan, who had been installed as king during his father's captivity, died in 1775 A. D. A second son was born to the king in 1780, who was named Harendranarayan.

The old Maharaja died in the month of Agrahayana in 274 *Raja shaká*, corresponding with 1190 B. E, and 1783 A. D.

CHAPTER VIII.

FEUDATORY CHIEFS OF COOCH BEHAR.

DHARENDRANARAYAN AND HIS SUCCESSORS.

3. (XVII) HARENDRANARAYAN.

[*Raja Shaká 274—330; 1190—1246 B. E.; 1783—1839 A. D.*]

Cooch Behar became a Feudatory State by virtue of the Treaty of 1773, and Maharaja Dharendranarayan, on whose behalf the treaty was concluded by the Nazir Deo, was the first ruler of the country who acknowledged his allegiance to the British Government, as noticed in the foregoing chapter. Maharaja Dhairyendranarayan, who for the second time occupied the *Gaddi* after the untimely death of his son, was thus the second Feudatory Chief of Cooch Behar.

Two rival parties in the country.

Harendranarayan was 3 years and 9 months old when his father the unhappy Maharaja Dhairyendranarayan died. There were two rival parties in the administration, the party of the Maharani and the party of the Nazir Deo. Sarvananda Gosain, Rajguru, and Kasi Kanta Lahiri, Khash Navish, who had been instrumental in getting the treaty made with the British Government and procuring the release of the late Maharaja, possessed considerable influence in the country. During the unsettled state of affairs, and disintegration of power in the last two reigns, the Gosain, through his influence over the Maharani, and the Khash Navish had succeeded to take the civil administration into their own hands. The Nazir Deo Khagendranarayan was, on the other hand, at the head of the Military, and was the person with whom the treaty had been concluded on behalf of the infant Dharendranarayan, and naturally possessed an influence in the country second to none. Mr. Goodland, the Collector of Rangpur, in whom the representation of the State vested, naturally sided with the Nazir Deo, as the nearest male guardian of the ruling family. Moreover, the Nazir Deo was the ostensible proprietor of the zemindaries of the *Chaklas*, and had thus more intimate relations with the Collector than any other man in the State. Syam Chandra Ray, who was his manager of the estates and resided at Rangpur, had the ear of Mr. Goodland, and helped his principal to the utmost of his power in his struggles for political supremacy in the State. It was in fact through the machinations of this man, that the Gosain and the Khash Navish had been confined at Rangpur in 1780 by Mr. Goodland, on the plea that they had not complied with his demand of showing him the papers of collections of the State.

Party of Maharani.

Party of Nazir Deo.

Nazir Deo's ambition.

Khagendranarayan thus possessed great authority in the State when Dhairyendranarayan died. He had all along aimed at the throne and aspired at the Raj, and the opportunity for the fulfilment of his desire now presented itself. He had, however, to yield to public opinion, and could not openly have recourse to force for fear of the Havildar of the Military guard stationed at Cooch Behar by the British Government for the protection of the Maharaja, and reluctantly placed the infant Harendranarayan on the throne. He, however, wanted to hold all the powers of the State in his own hands. On the other hand, the Maharani produced a will of the late Maharaja appointing her sole guardian of the infant chief and administratrix of the Government during his minority. These powers she immediately assumed and was supported by Jital Sing, the Havildar. At the coronation, the Nazir Deo attempted to seize the State seal ; in this he was frustrated by the Havildar. He was offended by Jital Sing's conduct, and on his representations, Jital Sing was recalled from Cooch Behar and dismissed by Mr. Goodland, who himself came over to the capital, and, taking an agreement from the Nazir Deo for the payment of the arrears of the tribute, had the State seal taken from Maharani Kamateswari and given to Khagendranarayan, whose supremacy in the Raj was thus virtually acknowledged by the British representative.

Will of late Maharaja.

Collector of Rangpur supports Nazir Deo's authority

The Gosain and the Khash Navish were still in confinement at Rangpur. The only obstacle in the way of the Nazir Deo was also removed by the dismissal of Jital Sing. He now entered Cooch Behar at the head of some troops, openly declared himself king, and had coins struck in his own name. He put the Maharaja's men to the sword wherever he could find them, and placed a strong guard on the inner appartment where the Maharani and the infant Maharaja were, and shut out all means of communication from outside. The Maharani was thus virtually made a prisoner with the young Maharaja, and with the stoppage of supplies was reduced to a dire state of distress. At this time, the Maharaja was attacked with small pox, and had to go without any medical treatment owing to the inhuman conduct of the Nazir Deo.

Nazir Deo proclaims himself King.

Maharani and infant Maharaja kept in confinement.

In this emergency representations were made to the Governor-General on behalf of the Maharani by the Gosain and the Khash Navish. The result was that these officers were immediately allowed to return to Cooch Behar, and the Nazir Deo quitted the capital and returned to Balarampur. The latter and his agent Syam Chundra Roy were afterwards sent to Cooch Behar by Mr. Goodland under an escort, and kept imprisoned in a godown.

By this time Mr. Peter Moore succeeded Mr. Goodland as Collector of Rangpur. He came with an unprejudiced mind, and took in the situation at once. On his representation the Nazir Deo and his agent were put in irons. This was followed by the deposition of Khagendranarayan from the Nazirship, and confiscation of all his property by the Maharani in 1785. Jivendranarayan, son of Dewan Deo Surendranarayan, was appointed Nazir. Mr. Moore chastises the Nazir Deo.

In the meantime Khagendranarayan was released from the prison, and went to Rangamati in Assam where he had relations. Having failed to obtain the release of his property from the Regent amicably, he had now recourse to force. With the assistance of his father-in-law, Bulchand Barua, and his son Birchand Barua of Rangamati, he collected together some *Sanyasi* troops under one Ganesh Gir. At the head of this force his elder brother the Dhungar Deo made a rush upon the palace, and through the treachery of Golab Sing, the Subadar of the palace-guard, succeeded in seizing the Maharani and the young Maharaja, and conveyed them to Balarampur, where they were kept confined in an outhouse. This took place in 1788. Rebellion of Nazir Deo.

The officers of the State now tried to come to an amicable settlement with Khagendranarayan, but their overtures were thrown up by the latter with disdain. In this extremity the Gosain and the Khash Navish sought the aid of the Government, and a detachment of troops having been sent to Balarampur under Captain Rattan, the Maharaja and the Maharani were released and brought over to Cooch Behar. The principal persons concerned with the commotion were seized and carried in confinement to Rangpur to await orders of Government. Release of the Maharaja.

The Maharani having returned to power confiscated all lands belonging to the Nazir Deo, who was driven out of the country as an exile. The Dewan Deo also was deprived of all lands set apart for his maintenance. In this emergency the Nazir Deo made a representation to Government claiming a nine annas and ten cawri share of the country, as also the proprietorship of the zemindaries. In like manner, the Dewan Deo claimed a one anna share of the State. Claims of Nazir Deo and Dewan Deo.

The attention of Government had previously been called to the distracted state of the country by the petitions of the contending parties, and this last act of violence on the part of the Nazir Deo caused the Government of Lord Cornwallis, in a resolution dated the 2nd April 1788, to appoint a Commission with Messrs Lawrence Mercer and John Lewis Chauvet to report on the pretentions of the parties, and on various other subjects Appointment of a Commission by British Government.

connected with the state of the country, and on the mode in which the British influence should be exercised for its better management in future.

Result of the same.

The Commissioners commenced their work at Rangpur on the 3rd May 1788, and then moved to Moghalhat, and subsequently to Cooch Behar, prosecuting their enquiries till the 29th October, and submitted their report on the 10th December of that year. In this report, among other matters, the Commissioners declared themselves in favour of the full sovereignty of the Maharaja, setting aside the claims of the Nazir Deo and the Dewan Deo to shares in the Raj, as well as the claims of the former to the zemindaries of the *chaklas* and his alleged rights to be the king-maker of Cooch Behar. The Government passed their decision accordingly, and, while granting 2 *croses* or 4 miles of land around Balarampur to the Nazir Deo, and Patchhara to the Dewan Deo, with a monthly stipend to each for his maintenance, resolved upon appointing a Commissioner or Resident at Cooch Behar for superintending the affairs of the country during the minority of the Maharaja ; and Mr. Henry Douglas was appointed Commissioner in 1789.

Mr. Douglas appointed Commissioner of Cooch Behar.

Reforms introduced by Mr. Douglas.

On the assumption of charge by Mr. Douglas the Gosain was deprived of all office, and the Khash Navish was required to give his services to the Commissioner. Letters impressed with the seal bearing the Maharaja's name also had Mr. Douglas' seal put upon them. Separate seals were prepared for the Criminal and Revenue courts. In public documents the Maharaja's orders used to be recorded at the top, and they were carried out under the Commissioner's signature.

Education of the young Maharaja.

Mr. Douglas did everything to encourage the Maharaja in the acquisition of Persian and Bengali languages, and other subjects of knowledge. Every week he examined him in what he had learnt. Moulvi Mehir Ali was appointed to teach him to read Persian, and Lala Sarup Sing taught him writing. In a short time the young Maharaja became skilled in various arts. He learnt to ride on horse-back, and on elephant-back, and gave himself to physical exercise every morning.[93]

Bad condition of Revenue.

The time of Mr. Douglas was, however, chiefly taken up in reforming the system of Land Revenue, which naturally engaged his first attention. When he took charge of his office he found the condition of the exchequer very deplorable. While reporting to the Governor-General on the affairs of the country on the 19th May 1790, he observed : "From the monthly accounts, which have been

[93] Rajopakshyana, Part III, Chap. VII, pages 152-153.

transmitted to your Lordship, will have been perceived the very impoverished state of the Cooch Behar Treasury ; that the expenses have exceeded the revenue, and the deficiency has been obliged to be supplied by loans. However, by proper management the Raja's income will, I hope, in a short time be equal, at least, to his disbursements."[94] The abuses found by Mr. Douglas in the administration of Land Revenue of the State were many, and of far reaching evil consequences. The revenue had before consisted of two parts, namely, the *assal* or original rental or jama, and *abooab* or additional cesses. At the time of fixing the amount of tribute, Mr. Purling consolidated these two, and showed the clear revenue to be Rs. 1,99,120 in his Hastbood in 1774. Since that time a variety of new taxes had been introduced, and large portions of lands had been alienated. Owing to the general mal-administration of the country numbers of ryots fled from the State and the revenue suffered a considerable diminution. Thus in 1195 B. S. (1789) the revenue of the State amounted to Rs. 1,28,534, and it suffered a further reduction in 1196 to Rs. 1,26,391. The whole of Maharaja's private lands, giving an income of Rs. 15,883 per annum, had been possessed by the Maharani ; very considerable grants of Jaigir and Brahmottar lands had been made ; and the greater portion of the Petbhata lands of the Nazir Deo within the zemindaries which had been confiscated, had been divided between themselves by Sarbananda Gosain, and the Dewan Kashi Kanta Lahiri.

Reforms of Mr. Douglas

Mr. Douglas rescued the lands possessed by the Maharani also those of the Nazir Deo's Petbhata lands fraudulently held by the Gosain and the Dewan. He abolished a portion of the *mafussil kharcha*[95] charged on the ryots, and made rules for the regulation of the Talabana or allowance to peons employed in the collection of revenue. He curtailed the Maharaja's establishment, which, though not very large, was much greater than the state of the finances admitted of.

Introduction of *Ijardary system.*

The great reform with which the name of Mr. Douglas is associated was the introduction of the IJARDARI SYSTEM of the collection of Land Revenue. Previous to his arrival the revenue appears to have been collected by the officers of the State under

94 Select Records.—Vol. I, page 30.

95"There are certain charges called *mafussil kharcha* which are not inserted in the public accounts. This may be reckoned as equal to one-fifth part of the whole revenue. They consist principally of Nuzzer and Salami or presents to the Raja's officers, of interest on money borrowed on the part of the ryots by persons employed in collections at a most exhorbitant rate, and of Talabana or allowance to peons."—Select Records, Vol. I, pages 30—31. The first two of these charges were abolished.

the names of Sajwals. The number of Jotedars was very large, and the country was extensive. Proper control over these lowly paid *amlas* could not thus be kept, and the consequence was much oppression on the ryots resulting in their flight and falling off of revenue. In 1790, Mr. Douglas let out the jotes in *Ijaras* or farms to persons in convenient lots, and made them responsible for the State revenue. The lease of these *Ijaras* was given out annually. The system was an improvement upon the existing mode of realisation of revenue, and appears to have worked well in the beginning. It, however, subsequently degenerated and led to greater evils than were possible under the KHASH COLLECTION SYSTEM, which had ultimately to be re-introduced during the minority of the present Maharaja.

Khash Mehals.

Mr. Douglas, however, did not wholly do away with *khash* collection; in fact it was not possible to do so. There were bad Mehals which had no attraction for an outsider, and these fetched no bid at auction. They had to be kept under *khash* collection. In this way the western part of Pargana Mekhligunj, called Rahimgunj, has all along been under *khash* management.

Mr. Douglas abolished the duties on *ganjes* and *háts* which formerly used to be collected, but were oppressive.

Mr. Bruce and Mr. Ahmuty.

Mr. Douglas was succeeded by Mr. Charles Andrew Bruce in 1791, and the latter by Mr. W. T. Smith in 1795, who made over charge to Mr. Richard Ahmuty in 1797. Mr. Ahmuty found the evils of annual Settlement of revenue to be very great, and raised the term to five years. He made a regular Register of the lands of Cooch Behar, and a copy of his Quinquennial Register for 1205 B. E. still exists. He gave great encouragement to the cultivation of waste land, and in his time the Talukson the west side of the Tista appear to have been in good condition. He established a Bunder on the west bank of the river, which was named after him and called Shahebgunj. Another Hat was established further up the river and named Bibigunj after his wife. In his time the revenue of Cooch Behar amounted to Rs. 2,36,771 in 1205 B. E., corresponding with 1798.

Ahmuty's reforms.

Majority of Harendranarayan.

In the year 1801, Maharaja Harendranarayan coming of age, the Commissioner was removed, and the administration was left in his hands.

Attempt of Government to introduce Regulations in Cooch Behar.

In January 1803, however, consequent on the proceedings[96] of the Governor-General in council, under date the 26th August 1802, Mr. Francis Pierard was appointed Commissioner of Cooch Behar for the purpose of forming in concert with the Maharaja necessary

[96] Select Records, Vol I, page 133.

arrangements for the collection of public revenue, and for the administration of justice as well as the adoption of a proper and efficient system of Police in the State, subject to the authority of the Maharaja. The Maharaja, however, immediately on Mr. Pierard's arrival at Cooch Behar, expressed his strong repugnance at the measure contemplated and insisted on his right as an independent ruler of his own territories.[97] And notwithstanding the strong remonstrance of Government and their express determination of persisting in an arrangement, Pierard failed to procure the Maharaja's assent, and that gentleman was removed from Cooch Behar on the 1st August 1804. How it failed.

Again, on the 18th February 1805, Mr. John French was appointed Commissioner with directions to endeavour to procure the Raja's assent to the introduction of the Regulations, and to establish tribunals on the model of those of the Government, but under the Raja's own officers. The result of Mr. French's labour was not, however, more favourable than that of his predecessor; and on the 25th June of the same year, the separate office of a resident Commissioner of Cooch Behar was abolished, and the duty of communicating with the Maharaja was vested in the Collector of Rangpur. A second attempt. Its failure.

[97] It would be interesting at this distant date to note how the old Maharaja Harendranarayan pleaded his cause to the Imperial Government. A few lines from a translation of his letter to the Governor-General, dated the 8th August 1803, are therefore quoted below :—

"Your Excellency has observed in a letter addressed to the Commissioner in Cooch Behar on the 9th of June 1798 that I expressed a wish that the Government would be pleased to establish such permanent regulations for Cooch Behar as it might think proper. But at that time, my Lord, I had not been introduced to any public business whatever. Possibly some one of my old amlas conceiving that the British Government was desirous of affording me protection and instruction, or from some other motive, might have solicited its advice to assist my judgment in regulating the affairs of my country with advantage; but such application could not imply a wish that the administration of justice should be vested in the hands of Company's servants.

"Your Excellency has written with your friendly pen that it is not the wish of the British Government to subject me to the jurisdiction of this court which may be empowered to take cognisance of Civil and Criminal causes: but, my Lord, when my relations, dependants, servants and subjects shall be amenable to Civil and Criminal courts established by the Company, where will be my dignity and authority?

"Of the lands which constituted the Raj of my progenitors, Behar is all that remains to me. The country is small and its revenue trifling. By declining, therefore, to give me so small a tract of country, yielding so inconsiderable a revenue, and by transfer of the administration of Civil and Criminal justice to the hands of the officers of the British Government, the Company will acquire no advantage.

"As it would redound to the honour and reputation of the British Government that its protection should rescue a country from its enemies and restore it to its prince, allow me to retain my country, that reposing under the protection of the British Government in ease and tranquillity, I may acknowledge its power with unceasing gratitude. British protection will then be desired and sought by all men."—Select Records, Vol. I, pages 144—145.

The duties connected with the administration had all along been performed by native officers since 1801, and after the removal of the British Commissioner many of the old abuses crept into the government of the country. Guru Prosad Rai, a companion of the Maharaja in his boyhood, possessed much influence, and for many years successively held the offices of the head of the Criminal administration and the Dewan. The other principal officers of the State were Brajanandan Mustafi in charge of Accounts, Radhakrishna Lahiri, once the Dewan, and Jayanath Ghose, the Personal Assistant to the Maharaja. The name of this last office was Munshi, and Jayanath Ghose is now generally known as Jayanath Munshi. Under orders of the Maharaja he wrote a history of Cooch Behar from the earliest time down to the present rule, and subsequently brought it up to the close of the rule of Maharaja Shivendranarayan. The name of this work is *Rajopakshyana* or History of the kings, and it was translated into English by the Rev. R. Robinson in 1874.

Interference with internal administration by Collector of Rangpur.

During this priod extending over 9 years, from 1805 to 1813, Messrs. Archibald Montgomery, James Morgan and John Digby were the successive Collectors of Rangpur and ex-officio Residents for Cooch Behar. They carried on their duties connected with the State from Rangpur, and were often carried away by the exparte statements made on behalf of the Nazir Deo and the Dewan Deo, against the Maharaja. This made matters worse, and the defects and irregularities of the Cooch Behar court were often sent up to Government in a highly coloured and exaggerated form. The Collector also interfered in small matters of internal administration, and unduly aggrandised the position of the Dewan Deo to the corresponding humiliation of the Maharaja. Terms were dictated to the king as if he were a zemindar of Lower Bengal, and thus the patience of the ruler was sorely taxed. When matters had attained such a crisis the Government of Lord Mint recorded its Resolution[98] in the Revenue Department, dated the 7th August 1813, and determined upon exercising a thorough and efficient interference in the internal affairs of Cooch Behar with a view to eradicate the evils of the Cooch Behar administration.

Maharaja's impatience.

Revival of the post of resident Commissioner.

Mr. MacLeod's failure.

With this object in view the Government of Lord Cornwallis revived the post of the resident Commissioner of Cooch Behar, and appointed Mr. Norman MacLeod, Magistrate of Dacca, to the office on a salary of Rs. 1,500 per mensem. Mr. MacLeod came to Cooch Behar with a mind highly prejudiced against the Maharaja, and by repeated acts of interference in the administration and encouraging all sorts of improbable reports against the ruler of the

[98] Select Records, Vol. I, pages 225-231.

State soon lost that influence which he, as the British representative, could otherwise exercise over the judgment of the Maharaja.

Declaration of Government Policy towards Cooch Behar.

It is therefore no wonder that he signally failed in his mission to introduce the Regulations in Cooch Behar and to reform the administration of the country. In 1815, Mr. MacLeod accused the Maharaja of having secret intrigues with the Subhas of Buxa and Chamarchi Duars in Bhutan, and with the government of Nepal. These serious charges had no foundation in truth, and the Government took the Commissioner to task for allowing himself to be carried away by false reports and rumours.[99] These and other circumstances led to the examination and revision by Government of its policy towards Cooch Behar, which was finally fixed upon and thus set forth in the Chief Secretary Mr. Adam's letter of the 24th February 1816 :—

"On the whole the resolution which the Governor-General in Council has now formed, is to abstain from all interference except in the form of advice and representation, in the unlimited management of the affairs of Cooch Behar, and to restrict the power of the Commissioner to the exercise of diplomatic functions only."

At the same time the Government issued, among others, the following solid directions for the guidance of the Commissioner :—

"It is proper to observe that the less frequently advice is interposed, the more efficacious, generally speaking, it is likely to prove, and that it is therefore desirable to avoid as much as possible all interference in point of details, and matters of subordinate importance, which might be likely to produce irritation and disgust, and to reserve the full right and influence which the British representative must possess for occasions of moment. By adhering to these principles and by the observance of a mediate and conciliatory tone towards the Raja, it may be hoped that you will be able to establish an influence over his mind which will eventually effect a considerable amelioration of the system of his government and become productive of reciprocal benefit to himself and his subjects."[100]

Govenor General's Agent.

Mr. MacLeod was shortly after recalled, and made over charge of his office to Mr. David Scott on the 11th November 1816. Mr. Scott was appointed Agent to the Governor-General on the North-Eastern Frontier in 1822, and the representation of Cooch Behar henceforth vested in that officer. He was succeeded

[99] Chief Secretary Mr. Monckton's letter of the 16th May 1815.—Select Records, Vol. I, pages 94—97.

[100] Select Records, Vol. I., page 98.

Captain Jenkins.

by Mr. T. C. Robertson in 1830, who in his turn made over charge of the office of the Governor-General's Agent to Captain Jenkins in 1834.

The Governor-General's Agent had his office at Goalpara, and very rarely visited Cooch Behar unless his presence was urgently required. Captain Jenkins visited Cooch Behar and made his first report on the country some time in 1838. He was a great benefactor of the country, and by his conciliatory spirit in his dealings with the rulers of the country, succeeded in doing more good than the strict and uncompromising attitude of the foregoing British representatives had been able to achieve. Captain Jenkins' agentship continued to the end of the next two administrations.

Rule of Harendranarayan.

The rule of Maharaja Harendranarayan marked a period of transition from the old to the new system, and forms a critical epoch in the history of the country. During this period the policy of the supreme Government towards the country was finally decided upon, and its formation was greatly influenced by the attitude of the ruler of the Raj. It was in this reign that the question whether Cooch Behar should gradually pass into a zemindari of Bengal arose more than once, and it was greatly due to the representation of Maharaja Harendranarayan that it is still a Feudatory State uncontrolled in its internal administration, and having a constitution independent of foreign interference.

Domestic and foreign quarrels.

This rule was full of disputes both domestic and foreign. The former, as is always the case, gave greater troubles and caused more injury to the ruler than the latter could ever possibly do. The internal administration of the country greatly suffered in consequence, and although protected from the Bhutia raids by the powerful arms of the British Government, the country was without peace with itself throughout almost the whole of the reign.

The important events of this admistration are noticed in some details under separate heads.

THE NAZIR DEO.

Finding of the Commissioners on Nazir Deo's claims.

After the revolt of 1785, Nazir Deo Khagendranarayan was dismissed from office, and all his land was confiscated. He now laid claim to a nine-sixteenths share of the kingdom as a co-sharer of the Maharaja, demanded the privilege of making the kings of Cooch Behar, and claimed the Zemindaries of the Chaklas of Boda, Patgram and Purvabhag as his own. The commission appointed in 1788, as already noticed, negatived all these claims, and Messrs. Mercer and Chauvet, while upholding the full supremacy of the Maharaja in every thing relating to Cooch Behar, recommended for the

Nazir Deo a monthly pension of Rs. 500, and a *Jaigir* of two *croshes* of land around his residence at Balarampur for his maintenance. The Government based their decision on the lines of this report, and sanctioned the recommendations made by the Commissioners for the support of the Nazir Deo.

Which was re-asserted in 1791.

Khagendranarayan, however, did not rest satisfied with this decision, and re-opened the question again in 1791, when Mr. Douglas in his report of the 15th March of that year supported the findings of the Special Commissioners of 1788,[101] and held that he could claim nothing beyond the allowance and the country to the extent of two *croshes* around Balarampur.

Maharaja resumed Nazir Deo's Jaigir and stopped allowance.

Shortly after he was left in the management of the Raj, the Maharaja took full possession of the land allotted to the maintenance of the Nazir Deo, and stopped regularly paying to him the allowance of Rs. 500 per mensem. Thus in 1806 the arrears due to the Nazir Deo on account of his stipend amounted to Rs. 32,000. Through the intervention of the Commissioner, the Maharaja arranged to liquidate the arrears by instalments, and to pay the allowance thenceforth regularly through the Commissioner.

Final settlement of the matter.

In 1807, through the intervention of Mr. Montgomery, Collector of Rangpur and Commissioner of Cooch Behar, the Maharaja was induced to come to an amicable settlement of the dispute by making over to Khagendranarayan land to the extent of one *crosh* each way round his house at Balarampur. The extent of this land is now approximately marked by Taluk Balarampur of Pargana Cooch Behar, which is called *croshi* Balarampur, or Balarampur extending one *crosh* or two miles each way from the town of Balarampur.

[101] "From the very able report of the Commissioners and from every other source from which I have been able to obtain it, it is beyond a doubt established that,in the reign of Rupanarayan the then Nazir Deo Shantanarayan, in consequence of his over-grown power and influence, carried a tripartite division of the country to be made, and obtained for himself a share equal to nine-sixteenths, which he and his successors have been in possession of from that time, till Khagendranarayan was dismissed from his office about six years ago.

"The private lands which Khagendranarayan claims are included in the above nine-sixteenths of the country ; they were so denominated by the Nazir Deo, and, I think, this circumstance strengthens the opinion of the late Commissioners that one of the conditions of the Nazir Deos' holding so large a portion of the country was that they should pay the troops, of which they were the commanders, from the revenues of it, and which was the cause of their allotting a certain part of the lands in question to defray the private expenses.

"Khagendranarayan likewise claims the zemindari of the Chaklas of Boda, Patgong and Purvabhag ; but, from the report of the late Commissioners, who had before them every proof which he could bring in support of his claim, it appears that he was not able to establish his right to those districts, he having only had possession of them on the part of the Raja of Cooch Behar,

Heirs of Khagendranarayan.

On the 29th May 1808, Khagendranarayan died,[102] leaving one son, named Birendranarayan by a married wife, and three others by concubines.

Dispute renewed.

Birendranarayan was under the protection of Government. In 1809, on his complaint that some of his servants had been subjected to the civil court of the Maharaja, the Government decided that the latter should not be permitted to interfere in civil cases within the limits of the *Jaigir* held by the family of the late Nazir Dao.

This arrangement, however, remained only a dead letter, and the State servants used to make aggressions on the Nazir Deo's land; nor were the Nazir's representatives slow to go beyond their jurisdiction, and extort money from the people living outside the *Jaigir*. These mutual disputes led the Government in 1811 to employ two peons to watch the aggressions, and report them to the Commissioner.

Dissensions in Balarampur family.

On the death of Birendranarayan his step brothers Gajendranarayan, Sambhunarayan, and Jogendranarayan usurped the whole of the *Jaigir*, to the detriment of the rights of his minor son Tutnarayan. The annual revenue derived from Balarampur amounted to about Rs. 1,300. On the recommendation of the Commissoner, the Government, in 1816, granted each of Tutnarayan's uncles an allowance of Rs. 40 per mensem during their respective lives. This allowance was sanctioned on behalf of minor Tutnarayan, and was disbursed regularly at the same period at which the pension was paid to the Nazir Deo.

Offer of privileges to Tutnarayan.

In 1820, on the representation of Tutnarayan, the Maharaja was with much difficulty prevailed upon by the Commissioner Mr. Scott to grant certain privileges to the late Nazir Deo's representative within the limits of the *Jaigir* assigned for his residence ; such as, the trial of civil cases between parties both of whom might be relatives, dependants, or servants of the Nazir Deo's

who, on their being conquered by the Musalmans, deemed it beneath his dignity as a sovereign to pay revenue in his own name and, therefore, gave up the management of them to the then Nazir Deo for that purpose."—Select Records, Vol. I, pages 40—41.

[102] Mr. Douglas thus describes the character of the Nazir Deo, the maker of the treaty with the British Government, and the chief factor in the commotion which convulsed the country after the death of the last king :—

"Khagendranarayan appears to be so weak in his mental faculties as to be absolutely incapable of conducting any business, and should he obtain possession of his share of the country, the management of it will fall into the hands of those persons whose evil and interested counsel has already so much misled him and has been the principal cause of the greater part of his misfortunes." Mr. Douglas' letter to Lord Cornwallis, Governor-General, dated the 15th March 1791.—Select Records, Vol. I, page 41.

family, or cultivators of the soil, arising within the *Jaigir*, subject to appeal to the Maharaja's courts; and the trial of petty criminal offences committed by such parties within the said *Jaigir* under certain restrictions, an appeal lying to the Dewan presiding over the Supreme Council of the State, and all sentences of imprisonment being executed in the Maharaja's Fouzdary Jail. These powers the representative of the Nazir Deo was to exercise under a *sunnud* to be granted by the Maharaja. He was also to have an agent through whom all processes issued from the State courts would be served, and who would be bound to produce the parties within one day. [103]

Tutnarayan's refusal.

Tutnarayan, however, did not agree to this arrangement made by the Government for his benefit, and refused to appoint a person to receive processes issued by the courts of the State. The family of the Nazir Deo thus lost the golden opportunity of obtaining some tangible powers under the protection of the British Government, which would not have possibly been wholly lost even at the present day.

Separation of Nazirship from Balarampur family.

Tutnarayan died on the 23rd November, 1824. His representative henceforth ceased to be called Nazir Deo by virtue of succession, and the Maharaja was left unfettered in his choice of his own Nazirs, on condition of his leaving to the heirs of the late Nazir Deo the enjoyment of the pension and the *Jaigir*.

Tutnarayan left a minor son named Harendranarayan. A dispute arising in the family, Gajendranarayan was made the *Sarvarákakár* or manager of the *Jaigir*, in 1826. Gajendranarayan died in 1835, and Harendranarayan being still a minor of 12 years of age, Sambhunarayan was appointed manager of the Balarampur Estate.

Boundaries of Balarampur settled.

In 1830, a dispute arose between the Maharaja and the Nazir Deo's family regarding the limits of the *Jaigir* of Balarampur. In 1834, Mr. Robertson, Governor-General's Agent on the North-Eastern Frontier, appointed Ensign Brodie, then on deputation in the Bhutan frontier, to settle it. The question was finally settled in 1837.

The Dewan Deo.

Attitude of Dewan Deo towards Maharaja.

While the disputes with the Nazir Deo were almost constant, the Maharaja's relations with the Dewan Deo were not more cordial. Nor was the ruler alone to blame for this. The undue interference of the Collector of Rangpur, in his capacity of Commissioner of Cooch Behar, in every detail of internal adminis-

[103] Cooch Behar Select Records., Vol. I., pages 59—60.

tration of the country made matters worse. Impulsive and impatient of restraint as the Maharaja was, he could not bear to be thwarted in every work he undertook, if it did not suit the convenience or interest of the secret informers against him. After the Government had acknowledged the sovereign rights of the Maharaja in matters of internal administration of the State, it was in no way unreasonable on the part of the latter if he insisted upon his rights in punishing acts of defiance of authority; nor was it altogether unnatural in him not to be well disposed towards men who tried their utmost to deprive him of his sovereignty. The momentary outburst of ill feeling which occurred in these personages against one another could, however, have been allayed, if only the Commissioner had acted with better tact and coolness, and assumed a more conciliatory attitude towards the recognised ruler of the country.

Dewan Deo's claim to share in the State negatived.

Like the Nazir Deo, the Dewan Deo also had set himself up as a co-sharer of the Raj, and even after the report of Messrs. Mercer and Chauvet did not rest satisfied with the decision of Government. He claimed powers of administering justice within his Jaigir lands; but the Government justly disallowed the demand. Having been placed in charge of Gird Patchhara for his maintenance he was persuaded by the evil counsel of wicked men to behave in a disrespectful manner towards the Maharaja.

Harish Chakravarti's confinement and commotion in the country.

One Harish Chandra Chakravarti, a *pujari* or worshipper of idols in the service of Dewan Deo, made himself notorious by his insolent conduct towards the Maharaja, and was imprisoned by the latter evidently on that ground. The Dewan Deo by means of misrepresentation made *ex parte* to the Collector of Rangpur, drew down his authority to take the Maharaja to task without any enquiry into the matter, and inflamed the wrath of the ruler. The unfortunate man subsequently died in, or was missed from, the prison, and the Dewan Deo insinuated that he had been put to death under orders of the Maharaja. This incident led to much commotion in Cooch Behar. Mr. Digby, the Commissioner, who had already been prejudiced against the Maharaja by the allegations of the Dewan Deo, having now been appointed by Government to report on the alleged murder of Harish, and other acts of so-called violence to the Dewan Deo on the part of the Maharaja, somehow or other felt himself insulted by the behaviour of the ruler, when he came to Cooch Behar on this mission, and represented the matter in a treasonable light to the Government of India. This led to the appointment of Mr. Norman Mac Leod as Commissioner of Cooch Behar for the purpose of making

thorough enquiries into the conduct of the Maharaja, and Cooch Behar fared very ill during the incumbency of that officer.

In subordination of Dewan Deo.

From time to time the Dewan Deo represented to the Collector of Rangpur that his own person was in danger from the violence of the Maharaja, and succeeded in having guards placed at his house through the assistance of that officer. It is not free from doubt if all this arrangement was not made for having the position of the Dewan Deo secured against the authority of the Maharaja, and for a more successful hurling of defiance at the latter. It seems, however, to be certain that the Dewan Deo's reports against the Maharaja were highly coloured, and were based upon little or no apprehension of personal safety. For, when in June 1813, owing to the alarming report of Mr. Digby, the Government asked that officer to proceed to Cooch Behar in person with a military force to conduct the Dewan Deo to Rangpur and place him out of danger, the Dewan Deo cunningly refused to go to Rangpur, and elected to remain at his residence in the midst of the alleged dangers to his life.[104]

In October 1816, the Dewan Deo having complained of dispossession of certain lands of Atharakotha belonging to his Estate by the Maharaja, Commissioner Mr. MacLeod pressed the Government for an investigation on the subject. The Chief Secretary Mr. Adam advised an amicable settlement with the Maharaja, and the dispute appears to have been settled in a like manner.

Dewan Deo Jibendranarayan died in 1819. His only son died two years later. The widows of the Dewan Deo were allowed to hold the Jaigir during their life-time. The last widow died in 1838, and the Estate of the Dewan Deo, which was only a Jaigir meant for the maintenance of the family, escheated to the State.

Boundary Disputes with Bhutan.

Dispossession of territory by Bhutan.

Before the first Bhutan War, owing to the weakness of the Cooch Behar Government due to internal dissensions, the Bhutias acquired much influence over the management of the State. Some

[104] "I beg leave to acquaint you," writes Mr. Digby to the Chief Secretary to the Government in July 1813, "for the information of the Right Honourable the Governor-General in Council, that I have received two letters from the Dewan Deo in reply to mine, wherein he expresses his gratitude for the gracious protection offered to him by Government, but says that though by residing at Rangpur he himself should be secured from the resentment of the Raja of Cooch Behar, he apprehends, and I fear with too much reason, that were he to quit Cooch Behar, the guard being withdrawn, his house with its offices would be totally destroyed."—Select Records, Vol. I, page 225. This was certainly extreme prudence on the part of the Dewan Deo, and does not look like the forethought of a man who was in actual danger of his person and invoked the protection of the British Government for his life.

lands comprised by Ráychengá, Pánchkholguri, Parorpár, and some other Taluks,[105] now lying in the Western Duars, which the Bhutias had formerly held in farm under Cooch Behar, were usurped by them, and the payment of revenue was stopped. They also openly dispossessed some other lands covered by Taluks Chichakhata, Paglahat, Luckee Duar, Kyranti, and Maraghat, which were under direct management of the State. After the conclusion of the war, the British Government had to make over all these Taluks to Bhutan with a view to secure peace with that government. As soon as peace was established in the country by the release of Dhairyendranarayan by virtue of the treaty of 1774, the Nazir Deo without understanding the obligation of treaty-relations, sought to recover possession of the lands so lost to the State, and resumed the Taluks formerly leased out to Bhutan. In like manner Taluks Chichakhata and others were taken possession of. This led to a dispute with Bhutan. Under an award of the Dinajpur Council, dated the 28th May 1777, these last named Taluks had, however, to be made over to Bhutan. The British Government subsequently further acceded to the request of the Bhutias regarding the 13 Taluks, namely, Sonapur and others, by putting them in possession of the Bhutan Government in 1779.

Nazir Deo recovers possession.

Award of Dinajpur Council of 1777.

From this date down to 1788 Bhutan had no complaint against Cooch Behar. The period was one of internal dissensions and misrule in the State, marked by struggles for supremacy between the Nazir Deo and the Maharani, and it was not possible for the government of the State to oppose Bhutan, even if it overstepped the boundary and sowed the seed of future disturbance.

Renewal of hostilities.

In the time of Mr. Ahmuty, a dispute arose between the Deva Raja and Cooch Behar regarding 18 villages comprising Taluk Bhalka, which had been attached and annexed to Cooch Behar by Mr. Bruce, Commissioner, in 1794. Seven of these were adjudged by Mr. Ahmuty in 1799 to Bhutan, and the rest to Cooch Behar.[106]

Dispute regarding Bhalka.

In the year 1801 the Maharaja having come of age, the British Commissioner was removed and the administration de-

Maraghat recovered.

[105] The names of these are the following :—Succoaketti, Sonapur, Coming Gaon, Pattagong, Chuchurabari, Chakatiguri, Suphikhata, Mandalavas, Secrukhata, and Gungorah. Mandalavas, as already noticed, was the capital of Cooch Behar under Visva Sinha.

[106] The names of the seven villages made over to Bhutan are :—Pallohagah Dundimari, Barabhita, Kasaldabri, Kalpani, Burardabri and Majerdabri. The names of those retained for Cooch Behar are not known. One of them appears to have been Bhalka.

volved upon him. Cooch Behar had never willingly parted with the lands mentioned above in favour of Bhutan, which once undoubtedly formed part of the State. Thus the old boundary dispute now again arose, and the Maharaja finally succeeded in recovering the greater portion of the lands which had previously been alienated from his country. Maraghat was the foremost of the lands so recovered.

Commission of Messrs Morgan and Digby.

In December 1808, an affray took place on the northern frontier of Cooch Behar between the subjects of the State and those of Bhutan, in the District of Chamarchi, north of Maraghat, in which some rayots of Cooch Behar were killed. In the following year Messrs. Morgan and Digby, Commissioners deputed by Government to settle the dispute, upheld the title of Cooch Behar to the land as far as Bhangamalli, an old road passing through Tengnamari from east to west. This land contained 12 villages and 3 *hats* and was situated on the east side of the Jaldhaka, between that river and the Dudua; and it was accordingly ordered by Government to be transferred from Bhutan to Cooch Behar.

Fresh outrages committed by Bhutan.

The Bhutias, however, did not give up possession of the land, and furthermore committed encroachment upon Cooch Behar and made exactions from its rayots. In March 1811, a party of Bhutias, by order of the Subha of Chamarchi, having made an attack in the middle of night upon some Revenue and Police officers of Cooch Behar residing on the frontier of the State, wounded 27 of them and threatened to plunder and overrun the country, should the Maharaja make any attempt to possess himself of the disputed land. Captain Bird of the first Battalion stationed at Kissengunj was sent up by Government to the place of dispute. As soon as the regiment reached Cooch Behar, the Bhutias left the frontier, and the detachment was withdrawn in June of that year.

In November, similar hostilities on the part of the Subha of Chamarchi were again resumed, and Mr. Digby went over to the frontier, and proposed an amicable settlement of the dispute by making the river Gilandi the boundary between Bhutan and Cooch Behar ; this was not, however, accepted by Bhutan. In the meantime a detachment of troops was stationed at Maraghat for guarding it against Bhutia incursions.

Mr. Scott's settlement of boundary.

Further hostilities being now impossible in Maraghat, the Deva Raja, in 1817, had recourse to the expedient of questioning the finding of Mr. Digby, and requesting a revision of that decision. Mr. Scott, who was appointed to settle it, found that under the terms of the treaty of the British Government with Bhutan, the

whole of Maraghat, with the exception of certain (28) *Challas* or parcels of land, had been relinquished to Bhutan, a measure admitted at the time, and the propriety of which was then deemed to be too late to question. The conclusion arrived at by that officer was that of Maraghat only the 28 [107] *chalas* had been from time immemorial held by Cooch Behar.

This report came as a relief to Government, as it put it now in a position to satisfy the demand of Bhutan which had, since 1807, been giving much trouble, and was not a straightforward customer to deal with. Mr. Scott was accordingly ordered to make over possession of Maraghat to Bhutan. At the same time, the Government resolved upon a survey of the frontier and demarcation of the boundary, as soon as some other minor disputes would have been settled.

Fresh Bhutan outrages, and demarcation of boundary by Ensign Brodie.

In 1832, the Bhutias under the Subha of the Buxa Duars made encroachment upon Cooch Behar territory, and carried away 19 persons, including 14 females, on the ostensible plea of recovering an alleged debt. The remonstrances of Mr. Robertson, the Agent to the Governor-General on the North-East Frontier, made with Bhutan for the release of these persons, were of no avail. It was found necessary to enlist fighting men, and arms and ammunition had to be procured from the Government. At last Ensign Brodie was deputed under Major Lloyd, and a boundary appears to have been fixed upon. Bhutan, however, did not respect this boundary, and worse aggressions were committed by it in the next reign, as will appear hereafter.

MINT AND CURRENCY.

Specie coined.

The Bhandar Thakurs of Takagach were in charge of the mint. The only specie coined in it was half Narani rupees, of which about 40 or 50 thousand used to be coined every year. No

Quantity.

gold was coined. The quantity of coinage depended upon the exchange on the French Arcot rupees, from which the Narani rupees were generally coined. When by the exchange a good profit was secured, new rupees were coined ; when, on the other hand, the exchange was high, the coinage was stopped. Thus in 1787, only about 28 thousand coins were struck.

Alloy in the coins.

In coining the Narani rupees, twenty-five per cent of copper was added to the alloy originally in the Arcot rupees. From one hundred Arcot rupees, added to the alloy of 30 tollas of copper,

[107] The *challas* or parcels of land are twenty-two, and not twenty-eight, in number.

were obtained 147½ whole, or 295 half Narani rupees. The weight of a full rupee was therefore about 14 annas, and that of the half rupee, about 7 annas. The proportion of alloy which a Narani coin contained was about 6 annas of copper in the whole, and 3 annas in the half, rupee. The balance of their weight, namely 8 annas and 4 annas, respectively, represented the quantity of silver in the coin.

Rates of exchange

The general rate of exchange at which the Narani coins were sold among private merchants and bankers was 117 Narani rupees for 100 Sicca rupees. The Government accepted these coins at the rate of 137 to 100 Sicca rupees. The cost of turning out Narani rupees, including the value of copper, at the worth of one coin, was about 10·9 annas in Sicca rupees. Its value in the Sicca currency was 13·6 annas at the private, and 11·8 annas at the Government, rate of exchange. In the first case, therefore, the State used to make a profit of 2·7 annas, and in the second case, ·9 annas or about 11 pies, per rupee, including the charge of coinage. The State thus made by this coinage a profit of about 25 per cent. on the outlay when selling out to private individuals, and about 8 per cent. when issuing to Government.

Profit made by State by the coinage.

Right of coinage.

The right of coinage was not acknowledged in the treaty of 1773 ; but in consequence of the representation of the Nazir Deo, submitted by Mr. Purling at the time, it was afterwards formally recognised, without any limitation in regard to the amount to be coined.[108]

The Rangpur Treasury being soon afterwards inundated with Narani rupees, which could not be disposed of, the amount to be coined in future was, on the succession of Maharaja Dhairyendra-narayan, for the second time after his return from captivity, limited to 12,000 annually by the Dinajpur Council.

Stoppage of the mint.

The coinage of Narani rupees continued at intervals under several of the Commissioners appointed during Harendranarayan's minority until the year 1800, when it was discontinued by order of Government, apparently, as a temporary measure. But on an application being subsequently made by the Maharaja he was informed by Government in 1805 that it was expected that he would not urge the request. In 1821, the Maharaja made a similar request which, though supported by Mr. Scott, the Commissioner, was not granted by the Government.

Attempt of Government to introduce new currency.

In 1796, the Government thought of introducing the Sicca rupees in Cooch Behar to the exclusion of the Narani. But as all

[108] Commissioner Mr. Scott's letter of the 29th September, 1821, to the Government of India, para 3.—Select Records, Vol. II, page 39.

commerce with Cooch Behar was carried on in Narani coins, the idea had to be abandoned as inconvenient. In 1834, the Government wanted to introduce the Furakkabad coins in Cooch Behar. The Maharaja objected to this and a representation was made. The Government, however, insisted upon carrying out the scheme, and in 1835 threatened to make Furakkabad and Company's rupees legal tender in Cooch Behar. Put owing to the strenuous opposition of the Maharaja and his strong repugnance to the measure, it was not carried through so long as Harendranarayan lived.

At last given up.

Narani is one of the oldest coins in India.

The Narani rupees, the currency of Cooch Behar, formed the coinage of ancient Kamarupa, the kingdom of the Koch family, of which the principal branch is the Cooch Behar line of kings. These coins were current in Assam, Bhutan, and the neighbouring countries. The Narani coin is one of the oldest that can be found in India.

PUBLIC OFFICES AND COURTS OF LAW.

Offices during the minority.

During the minority of Maharaja Harendranarayan, the whole administration was under the British Commissioner, who conducted the affairs of the State in the name, and on behalf of, the Maharaja. He constituted in himself the highest court of appeal in all matters, whether Civil, Criminal or Revenue.

After attainment of majority by Maharaja.

When the Maharaja assumed charge of his State after the attainment of his majority in 1801, the administration again fell solely into the hands of the State officers, an appeal lying to the Maharaja from their decisions. The principal departments of the administration were the department of the Dewan, those of Civil and Criminal administrations, and the department of Accounts. The Maharaja had his own office in the Munshikhana or the office of the Munshi or Personal Assistant. The Khangi formed a branch of the Revenue department, being concerned with the management of the Maharaja's private estates.

The Civil and the Criminal courts were divided into Original and Appellate, and the title of the presiding officer of the former was *Ahilkar*.

Attempt of Government to introduce the Regulations.

In 1803, the Government determined to introduce in Cooch Behar the system of Law and Justice in vogue in the Lower Provinces, and to place the courts under its own officers ; but owing to the strenuous opposition made to this measure by the Maharaja, it was abandoned, and the Government contented itself with remodelling the courts of the country under native officers.

When Mr. MacLeod was appointed Commissioner in 1813, the Government had in view the reconstruction of the courts of the State and the organisation of an efficient police. The Government drew out a scheme [109] for the purpose, and asked the Commissioner to obtain the assent of the Maharaja to its introduction. But it does not appear that the measure was adopted in the country during the life-time of the Maharaja. Government scheme of law-courts

The law administered was the Hindu law, both in matters Civil and Criminal; and there was one law both for Hindus and Mahamedans. There were Pundits attached to the courts to expound the law. Laws.

Under the Maharaja's authority death by hanging was the penalty inflicted on special criminals. Capital punishment.

The British Commissioners had a separate office of their own, and their own Dewans.

POLICE.

The want of a regular organised system of Police was one of the chief defects of the administration, and like the system of Land Revenue was sadly in want of reform. Ever since the country came into contact with the English, one of the earliest endeavours of Government had been to organise an efficient system of Police in the country. Gang robberies and public offences used to be committed along the Rangpur frontier with perfect impunity, as the offenders on being pursued sought refuge in Cooch Behar, and applications to the State for assistance uniformly failed of success. Police inefficient.

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[109] An analysis of this scheme is given below :—

(a) Hindu Law was to be administered in civil cases. The civil court was to be presided over by a respectable and intelligent native of the Hindu persuasion, aided by a Pundit thoroughly versed in the principles and doctrines of the Hindu Law. The Commissioner was to be invested with general unlimited control over the proceedings and decisions of the native Judge.

(b) In cases of intricacy or more than ordinary importance, no difficulty would occur in obtaining legal opinions from the Pundits or if necessary from the Maulvies of the Sudder Dewani Adalat of Calcutta.

(c) The Mahamedans were to be guided by Hindu Law.

(d) The Mahamedan law with the modification of it adopted in British territories, should be administered in criminal cases in Cooch Behar. Petty cases were to be tried by the native criminal court, consisting of a Kazi, and a Mufti. In all cases affecting the lives of the prisoners or involving severe punishment, the Commissioner was to be the presiding officer of the criminal court.

(e) No capital punishment should take place but with the knowledge and under the seal and signature of the Maharaja, and that he should exercise the privilege of remitting or mitigating punishment, even when the law itself might condemn.

Select Records, Vol. I, pages 321—324.

Thánás.

During the minority of the Maharaja the British Commissioners did something to improve the condition of the Police in the country. In 1805 there were two Thánás in the State, one at Atharabenki, south of Dinhata, and the other at Mekhligunj. These had evidently been established by Mr. Ahmuty. In the following year a third was established near Balarampur, and was probably the Bhabaniguuj Thana, in place of which Tufangunj sprang up in subsequent years.

The interference, which the Government was obliged to make in the administration of the country even after the Maharaja had come of age, was for the most part necessitated by the want of an efficient Police in the country, and the consequent insecurity it occasioned to the neighbouring district of Rangpur. One of the missions of the Commissioners since appointed was thus the reform of Police, and the organisation of a proper system of checking and detecting crimes. But the good endeavours of the Commissioners in this respect always met with failure, owing to the Maharaja's strong repugnance to British reform. The result was that crimes went unchecked, and the country did not enjoy that security of person and property which so prominently marks the present administration of the State.

Reciprocity in the surrender of criminals.

In 1836, the Government ruled that persons accused of heinous crimes and absconding from British India into Cooch Behar, and *vice versa*, should be demanded from, or given up to, the authorities of that principality, and that the practice should be strictly reciprocal.

MILITARY.

Ordinary force.

Maharaja Harendranarayan appears to have been authorised by the express permission of Government to retain in his service a company of sepoys numbering 120 men, as a personal guard, and a body of 150 *Burkundazes* to be employed in the collection of his revenue, and the discharge of other current duties under his government.

New enlistment by Maharaja.

In 1814, the Maharaja in addition to these employed 5 companies of rabble sepoys, comprising altogether 335 men, and a body of 171 *Burkundazes*. The time was very unsettled, and Bhutia aggressions were constantly taking place. The new enlistment was thus a necessity. The Commissioner, however, took a different view, and asked the Government to require the Maharaja to discharge all the additional sepoys and *Burkundazes*, which was accordingly done. Only eighty of the new batch of *Burkundazes* were kept on to act as a guard at Maraghat to repel the incursions of the Bhutias.

In 1816, Commissioner Mr. MacLeod made a proposal of further reducing the force, but this was not sanctioned by the Government.

In 1833, the Maharaja purchased from Government 180 muskets for his own use. On this occasion the Government presented him with two six-pounder brass guns.

Duty of the Military.

The sepoys, as already noticed, served as a personal guard of the Maharaja. Small guards were often stationed at places near the frontiers where the disturbance was great. Thus there were guards at Maraghat, Ksheti, Pundibari, and Berbera[110] in Jaldhoya. From time to time companies of Government sepoys had also to be posted to Cooch Behar to prevent disturbances at the frontiers.

Condition of the Military

The State sepoys were without discipline and generally useless for active service. Proper control was not kept over them, and they were sometimes found to extort money from the villagers, and occasionally take part in dacoities within the State. They were not regularly paid. Their degeneration was thus inevitable.

Mails.

It is not definitely known what the mode of carrying intelligence from one part of the State to another was during the first decade of the present century and before that time. Most probably it was done through *Khatgirs* or special messengers, as was the custom in Bengal in the early days of British rule. On the appointment of a separate Commissioner for Cooch Behar in December 1813, a regular Dak was established from Rangpur to Bheladanga to the south of the present town of Cooch Behar, at a monthly cost of Rs. 37-8, and the line appears to have been opened from the 28th January 1814.[111]

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[110] The guard at Berbera has given the name to a Hât, which was established in Rampur for the supply of their rations. This is called the Guard Hat. A few years ago it was removed from its old site and located in Taluk Madhurbhasha.

[111] It will be interesting to note what establishment was sanctioned for the first line of mails in Cooch Behar. The details are thus given below :—

Stages.			Rs.	As.	Ps.
Town of Rangpur, 2 Harkaras @	Rs. 3 per month		6	0	0
Kalidah ...	ditto	ditto ...	6	0	0
Moghalhat ...	ditto	ditto ...	6	0	0
Atharabenki ...	ditto	ditto ...	6	0	0
Bheladanga ...	ditto	ditto ...	6	0	0
Oil, wax cloth &c.	...	... ...	7	8	0
		Total ...	37	8	0

—Select Records, Vol I, page 238.

LAND REVENUE.

Amount in 1773.

In 1773, the land revenue of Cooch Behar, exclusive of Jaigir and other private lands, amounted to Narani Rupees 1,99,120. Owing to internal dissensions and consequent maladministration of the next decade, the revenue of the country greatly suffered,

In 1789

and, when in 1789 Mr. Douglas took charge of the administration, the revenue had come down to Narani Rupees 1,26,391. The Izardari system of collection was introduced in the following year,

In 1790.

1790, and there was a slight improvement on the last year's result, and the revenue came up to Narani Rs. 1,58,562.

Reforms and their result.

With the advent of the British Commissioner, several abuses in the system of collection of land revenue were removed, lands alienated by the Maharani and converted into rent-free holdings by the Gosian were confiscated and assessed, and thus the condition of the finance was further improved. So, when Mr. Ahmuty took charge of the State in 1797, he found the revenue to have risen to Narani Rs. 2,23,647, and there was an accumulation in promissory notes worth Rs. 69,638.

Mr. Ahmuty gave great encouragement to the cultivation of waste lands, and during his tenure of office the Taluks on the sides of the Tista came to be in a good condition. He had the land measured whenever practicable, and granted Pattahs to the rayots for the lands they held. He brought the land revenue under an organised system, and when he was removed in 1801, he left the Maharaja a revenue of Narani Rs. 2,33,771, besides an accumulation in promissory notes worth Rs. 79,556.

EXCISE.

Cultivation of poppy.

Opium used to be grown in the country from very early times, but its cultivation and manufacture were not taxed. 1788, a small quantity of opium was cultivated on the Company's account. The drug manufactured was of an inferior quality. The cultivation was therefore subsequently discontinued on behalf of the Company.

The Collector of Rangpur having reported about the import of contraband opium from Cooch Behar into his jurisdiction, there was some correspondence as early as 1822, regarding the suppression of the manufacture of the drug, and the growth of poppy within Cooch Behar. But nothing positive was done until the beginning of the present rule.

THE ZEMINDARIES.

During minority.

During the minority of Maharaja Harendranarayan, the Zemindaries of Chaklas Boda, Patgram and Purbabhag were

under the management of the Board of Revenue, and the Commissioner had to correspond with that body regarding matters connected with the same.

The amount of revenue derived from the Chaklas amounted to French Arcot Rupees 1,74,735, in 1191 B. S., corresponding with 1785. As in Cooch Behar, the revenue of the Zemindaries also suffered owing to mismanagement, and in 1195 B. S (1789) it came down to Arcot Rupees 1,24,954. Revenue in 1785.

In 1196 B. S. the gross Jama amounted to Rs. 1,45,405. It consisted of four parts, namely, *Assal*, *Abooab*, *Batta* and *Kartani*. This last head contained a variety of articles, most of which did not constitute any part of the rent, and were merely exactions of the collecting officers who appropriated the amount to their own use. These items of the *Kartani* were abolished by Mr. Douglas in 1791, and consolidated the other parts of the Jama (assal, abooab and batta) into one sum. The items of Kartani abolished used to give a total receipt of Narani Rupees 13,699. Owing to this and also to defective collection, the revenue for 1197 amounted to Arcot Rupees 1,25,652. Reforms of Mr. Douglas.

During the absence of Maharaja Harendranarayan from the State in Benares, in 1738, the Government prohibited the sale for arrears of revenue of the Zemindaries, and the Collector was forbidden from advertising them without the sanction of the Board of Revenue.

The Tribute.

The amount of tribute payable to the British Government under article 4 of the Treaty of 1773, was a moiety of the land revenue of the State. Before the rebellion of Nazir Deo, the representation of Government vested in the Collector of Rangpur, to whom had been entrusted the collection of the tribute. Up to the year 1780 the Collector appears to have realised it by committing the total collection of Cooch Behar to *Sajwals* appointed by him. From the total amount collected the *Sajwals* used to deduct the share of Government, and paid over the other half to the State Treasury. The amount of tribute was, however, permanently fixed in 1780 on the authority of the *Hastabud* or Revenue Statement prepared by Mr. Purling, Collector of Rangpur, who was specially appointed for that work. The amount of land revenue calculated by that officer was about 2 lacs of Narani Rupees (1,99,120,-5-0-15), and the amount of tribute was fixed at half that sum. For the next eight or nine years it continued to be collected in the same manner by the *Sajwals*, who, however, for two or three years were Amount of tribute. Mode of collection.

appointed not by the Collector, but by Raja Devi Sing, who at that time farmed all collections of Rangpur.

Tribute always carried at Government expense.

The duty of realising the tribute gave the Collector occasion for much irregular interference in the affairs of Cooch Behar; as for instance, stopping the State mint because Narani rupees were not readily saleable ; limiting the coinage to 1,000 rupees a month for the same reason; and suspending, imprisoning and otherwise preventing the chief officers of the State for alleged contumacy in obeying orders for executing *Muchalikás* for the due payment of the tribute.

During the British administration of the country, during the minority of Maharaja Harendranarayan, the tribute used to be collected by the Commissioner ; but, subsequently, when Messrs. Pierard and French were the Commissioners, it was paid into the Rangpur Treasury. From the time of Mr. MacLeod it was again received in Cooch Behar by the Commissioner. On the transfer of the representation of the State to the Governor-General's Agent, it was paid into the Goalpara Treasury.

Both when the tribute was received in Cooch Behar and sent to the Rangpur Treasury, and when it was received at Rangpur or Goalpara, the escorting was done by Government guard and the money was always carried out of the country at the risk of Government.

The tribute was paid in Narani rupees. The question of payment of the money in Company's rupees was, however, very often a subject of reference to Government by the Collector and the Commissioner, and the Government decided against their power to interfere.

In 1835, however, the Government ordered that the tribute was to be paid in standard coins of British India. But owing to the representations of the Maharaja, and his utter repugnance to the measure as derogatory to his rank and position, the order was, on the recommendation of the Governor-General's Agent, suspended during the life time of Maharaja Harendranarayan.

Instalments.

The tribute was paid in twelve *kists*, one *kist* falling due in each month of the Bengali year.

MISCELLANEOUS.

First Justice of the Peace

The Honourable Charles Andrew Bruce, Commissioner of Cooch Behar, was appointed Justice of the Peace for Cooch Behar on the 31st March, 1794. He was the first Justice of the Peace in the country, and his commission was intended to vest him with

legal authority to apprehend and send to Calcutta Europeans offending against the peace in Cooch Behar.

In 1795 a temple was erected in Brindavana by the Maharaja at a cost of Rs. 5,000. Temple at Brindavana.

In the time of Mr. Ahmuty Government stamp papers appear to have been in use in the Dewani Adalat and the Collectorate of Cooch Behar. Stamps.

The Thana of Patgram within the Zemindaries was established in 1798. Thana of Patgram.

Maharaja Harendranarayan made a donation of Rs. 1,066 for the Gauhati school in 1837, from the interest of which quarterly prizes were bestowed on the most deserving scholar. Endowment to Gauhati school.

THE MAHARAJA.

In the year 1200 B. E., corresponding with 1793, the Maharaja married two girls, the daughters of Jadunath Isore and Padmanath Kerji, who were made two queens. Four years after in 1797, another marriage was contracted with the niece of Bijayesvar Kerji and grand-daughter of Darpa Deo of Baikunthapur. She was called the Bara Madhyama Aye Devati, which is the usual title of the Maharani of Cooch Behar, as Bhup Bahadur is of the Maharaja. Again in 1800, the Maharaja married a fourth girl, the second grand-daughter of Darpa Deo, and the new queen went by the name of Chhota Madhyama Aye Devati. Marriages of Harendranarayan.

In the early part of the month of Agrahayan 1203 B. E., or the latter part of November 1796, the first Maharajkumar was born and named Shivendranarayan. Subsequently the Maharaja had five other sons. Sons of the Maharaja.

In 1214 B. E., corresponding with 1807, a large tank, called the Sagardighi, was excavated, and on its western bank a temple of Siva was erected, provision being at the same time made for the worship. This tank, which has subequently been enlarged and improved, to this day retains its fame for the purity of its water, and is now reserved for drinking purposes. Excavation of Sagardighi.

In the year 1219 B. E., (1812) the Rajbari having become dilapidated, the Maharaja established his capital, and built a residence for himself, at a place called Bhetaguri, situated at the bend of the Mánshái, between Taluks Sinhijani and Mawamari. The Maharaja entered this palace on the evening of the day of *Rash-játrá* in the month of Agrahayan (November). The Dewan with his subordinate officials took up his quarters at Gosaingunj. The rest of the ministers, the merchants, the Pundits and other people settled down at Bhetaguri. The bazars were handsomely got up, Different Capitals.

public roads were constructed, tanks were excavated and temples erected for the worship of the gods.

In 1821, the capital was removed to Dhaliyabari, where Maharaja Upendranarayan had built a palace. Before entering the new palace the Maharaja remained for some days in a small house built on the banks of the Manshai. This place was named *Jiranpur* or the place of rest. The bazars &c. that had been formed at Bhetaguri were removed to the new place, and the city became beautiful to look at. A temple was in the course of construction, which was not, however, completed.

A new palace was afterwards built in old Behar, and the Maharaja removed there in the beginning of 1235 B.E., or 1828. The dimensions of the new Rajbari were four times the size of the original one. Separate court-houses were erected. Stables, a philkhana, Gosalas and a place for the camels were built. The guard of the palace was stationed in front of the palace gate to the east. On the south of the inner apartments was a delightful flower garden, in the midst of which was a pleasure-house filled up with chandeliers and lamps and pictures. A gate opening into the palace from outside led to the Gharikhana and Nahabatkhana which had been erected within this gate opened out on a wide street running east and west through the Bazar. On the north side of this road in front of the palace, temples were erected, and the shrine already existing were brushed up. In 1238 B. E., corresponding with 1831, a temple was erected to the Anandamai Kali, where the image of Kali was subsequently set up. At the back of this temple a tank was dug. On the banks of this tank the Maharaja passed the greater part of his time in a house built for that purpose.

Last days of Maharaja.

In the last days of his life the Maharaja adopted ascetic habits, and the administration was really in the hands of his Dewan Kalichandra Lahiri and Buxi Shivaprosad.

Visit to Benares.

In 1836, the Maharaja went to Benares to die in that holy city, and left the management of the State with Maharajkumars Shivendranarayan and Bajrendranarayan, who were made joint-*Sarvarahakars* or Managers. The Maharaja spent large sums of money in Benares in charity.

Death and funeral.

Harendranarayan died at Benares on the 16th Joistha 1246, B. E., corresponding with the 29th July 1839. The funeral ceremony was performed by Kumar Jogendranarayan, with the assistance of Dewan Ramchandra Lahiri and Shivaprosad Buxi. The dead body of the Maharaja, being covered with shawls and other valuable cloths, was placed on a rich sofa and conducted to the

famous Manikarniká Ghát with great *eclat*, attended by a most gorgeous procession, consisting of elephants, horses, sepoys, and persons carrying flags and other ensigns of royalty, amidst the sound of drums and other musical instruments, while the people of Benares showered down garlands of flowers and *belá* leaves from both sides of the street. A small piece of land at the Manikarniká Ghát was purchased for the occasion, and the dead body of the Maharaja was burnt to ashes by means of sandal wood, clarified butter, aromatic gums and other fragrant oils.

Person of the Maharaja.

Maharaja Harendranarayan possessed a handsome person. His complexion was fair, his eyes large, and the eye-brows joined. He was a great wrestler, and gymnastic exercises had thrown out his chest and developed his arms. He was known for his strength. He wore no warm clothing in the winter, and in the month of Magh, in the height of cold, he covered himself in the night with only a thin sheet. He was an accomplished horseman and rider of elephants. He was very fond of games, and frequently went out hunting tiger, buffaloes and rhinoceroses. He was a skilful archer and good shot.

His attainments.

He was a scholar of his days, and well versed in Persian and Bengali. He was something of a poet and wrote several books in verse, both original and translation. He was an adept in the art of drawing and a skilled musician, and could appreciate the performances of the finest singers. He was quick to take in the character of men, and cultivate all great qualities himself.

His character.

Harendranarayan possessed a sweet tone, was always smiling and cheerful, and was never melancholy. He was a perfect gentleman, and would not listen to, or himself make use of, coarse language, not even to the vulgar.

He was a typical Hindu, full of devotion to gods and Brahman. He was a sincere and devout *Sákta*. He daily presented a burnt-offering, heard the Purana read and distributed rice and gold. He used to sing a song of his own composition, in praise of goddess Kali at the conclusion of his daily worship.

He had the welfare of his subjects at heart, and was never cruel or arbitrary in his disposition. A ruler of the old native type, he did not much meddle with the details of the administrtion. His peculiar religious faith enjoined seclusion, and in his later years he came to be in a manner inaccessible. Some evils thus crept into the government of the country.

His private character has been made the subject of much adverse criticism by persons who did not know all the surroundings

of the Maharaja, and derived their knowledge at second hand Much of this criticism was certainly unmerited, and proceeded from an inability on the part of his critics to appreciate the character of a *Tantrik* Hindu.

If any trait of character comes out prominently in his official dealings more than another, it is the strength of character of an Indian Chief. He never gave way to what was contrary to his principles, and was not afraid to run any risk to uphold his own conviction. His sense of independence was great, and he was naturally very sensitive when the independence of his Raj was concerned.

The reign of Maharaja Harendranarayan was the longest, and he was one of the ablest rulers of Cooch Behar of the modern times.

CHAPTER IX.

FEAUDATORY CHIEFS—*(contd.)*

4 (XVIII) SHIVENDRANARAYAN.

[*Raja shaka; 330-338; 1246-1254 B.E.—1839-1847 A. D.*]

Installation.

When Maharaja Harendranarayan died at Benares, the eldest Maharajkumar Shivendranarayan was at home, managing the affairs of the State jointly with his brother Bajrendranarayan. On receipt of the news of the late chief's demise, he was placed on the throne by the councillors and ministers. The news of the installation was sent to the *Samachar Darpan*, a vernacular newspaper published at Serampur, and also to the Governor-General at Calcutta and his Agent at Gauhati, and the succession was recognised by Government on the 28th August, 1839.

Jogendranarayan's representation.

Kumar Jogendranarayan, who was with his father at Benares at the time of his death, tried to place himself on the throne, and sent up for that purpose a representation to the Governor-General, and misled Maharani Bhuban Mohini to join in the attempt, who also made a similar representation to the Supreme Government. He also tried to retain all moveables and cash left by the late Maharaja at Benares. These representations were referred by Government to Shivendranarayan, who could not comply with the request. He, however, settled adequate allowances on them as also on the rest of his brothers.

Revenue improved.

The extravagances of the late Maharaja left the finances of the State in an embarrassed condition. The Rangpur estates had to be given in *Ijara* to a European gentleman of Rangpur, named Bonverie, and thereby raise sufficient money at a fair rate of in-

terest to clear the new Maharaja from the exhorbitant terms of the native money-lenders. The Government had also to be requested to suspend the rules of selling the Zemindaries for the arrears of each individual kist ; and the Government very kindly made the concession and ordered that the Zemindaries of Cooch Behar would not be sold for arrears till after the end of the year. In this way the heavy debts in connection with the Chaklas and Nij Behar were gradually paid off.

Dharma Sava.

The king devoted his attention to the internal administration of the Raj, and established a Dharma Sava for the discussion of the affairs of the State. Some of the oppressive taxes, such as, *ban-kar* &c., were abolished.

Court of Justice.

Kalichandra Lahiri was made the Sessions Judge, and other criminal works were made over to Kumar Mahendranarayan, one of the Maharaja's younger brothers. About this time two courts were instituted, those of the Naib Ahilkar and the Sudder Amin, for the purpose of deciding criminal and civil cases.

In 1840, a Court of Justice for the final adjudication of civil, revenue and criminal cases was established, and Dewan Kalichandra Lahiri and Isanchandra Mustafi were made judges of the court. Now and then the Maharaja used to sit in this court to hear difficult cases, which he decided with the assistance of the above named officers and learned pundits.

In 1841, the Maharaja established a Dharmasala, where religious mendicants found food and shelter.

Boundary dispute near Tenganmari.

Bhutan did not rest satisfied with the demarcation of the boundary made by Ensign Brodie in 1832. In 1844, a dispute arose in Ksheti by the Bhutias coming in a large body of three to four hundred men, and forcibly taking away crops from the lands of one Sakalu Prodhan of Tenganmari, on the plea that the land belonged to them. Mr. Campbell, Superintendent of Darjeeling, on deputation in the Bhutan frontier, on whom the settlement of the dispute devolved, adjudged the land as belonging to Cooch Behar, and made it over to the State in 1845.[112]

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[112] The following lines quoted from Mr. Campbell's letter on this subject are very suggestive :—

"The conduct of the Bhutias, in forcibly carrying off the grain from this land, and in putting up marks to define it as belonging to them, can not, now that their claims have been examined, be considered otherwise than as a deliberate encroachment on our frontier, and as a fresh instance of the mode by which they acquired a great deal of territory from Cooch Behar and Bykunthpur in former days, when this part of our frontier was so much neglected by us. It is difficult to devise a suitable mode for the prevention of such occurrences in the existing state of our relations with Bhutan, and to demand satisfaction and atonement for past encroachment, has unhappily not been the

Fire of 1845.

During a heavy storm in February 1845, a fire occurred in the palace and burnt down all the *kachha* buildings with a considerable destruction of valuable property and records. The treasure was, however, saved. A portion of the houses, where the courts were held, was consumed with the records.

Dhaliyabarri Temple.

The temple of Siva at Dhaliyabari, commenced in the last reign, was finished and the image of Sidhanath was put in it after due ceremony. All the temples in front of the Rajbari were made pucca.

Marriages of the Maharaja.

Maharaja Shivendranarayan was married on the 27th Phalgoon 1247 B. S. (1840) to the daughter of Bajradhar Karji of Chapaguri, and also to the daughter of Brajendranarayan Chowdhuri of Parvatjoyar. The former was called Sri Sri Dangar Aye Devati, and the latter Bara Aye Devati.

Adoption of Narendranarayan.

As the Maharaja had no male issue, he adopted, with the sanction of the Governor-General, Kumar Karindranarayan, a son of Sambhunarayan of Balarampur, and grandson of Khagendranarayan, Nazir Deo. The boy died in 1845, and the Maharaja for the second time adopted Kumar Chandranarayan, the fourth and youngest son of Kumar Bajrendranarayan. The boy thus adopted was named Narendranarayan.

Character of Shivendranarayan.

Shivendranarayan possessed long arms, a broad chest, large eyes, a broad forehead, a smiling face, fascinating wit and polite manners. His administrative abilities were great. During his reign there were great increase of population and extension of cultivation, which were conclusive proofs of the fact that the country was well governed.

Visit to Benares.

In 1847, the Maharaja repaired to Benares[113] after appointing his brother Mahendranarayan to the regency. A European

usual course of Government on this frontier ; nor could it be so, so long as it neglected to protect its own limits from the stealthy encroachments of our neighbours, and to prevent its subjects from making encroachmentson Bhutan."—Select Records, Vol II, page 117.

[113] The journey was made by water. The Rájádari Purwana issued on that occasion to the Thanadars, Chowkidars and other officers stationed for the protection of the public roads, under orders of the Government of India, is interesting, as it shews with what a retinue the Maharaja moved. It is thus reproducted below :—

"The Raja of Cooch Behar being about to proceed by water on a pilgrimage to Benares, taking with him the females of his family, and the followers and equipment noted below, you are to permit him to pass in safety through your respective jurisdiction, affording him any assistance he may require on his jonrney.

A Company of Sepoys.
8 Horsemen.
100 Burkandazes.
150 Mace, spear and Ensign bearers.
2 Cannon and 150 different kinds of instruments.
2000 Followers, about 200 boats and their crew."—
Select Records, Vol. II, page 125.

medical officer named Ralph Moore accompanied him as surgeon. Mahendra Narayan died on the 30th March of that year, and Kumar Bajrendra Narayan was appointed *Sarvarahakar*.

Shivendra Narayan died at Benares on the 23rd August 1847. Death.

CHAPTER X.

FEUDATORY CHIEFS—*(Contd.)*

5. (XIX) NARENDRA NARAYAN.

[*Raj Shaka 338-354; 1254-1270 B.E.; 1847-1863 A.D.*]

Education of Narendra Narayan.

Narendra Narayan was at Benares when Maharaja Shivendra Narayan died, on the 23rd August 1847, and was placed on the *gaddi* in the evening of that day. He was then removed to Cooch Behar, and placed under the tutorship of Mr. Moore, an officer who appears to have enjoyed the confidence of the deceased Maharaja. Narendra Narayan is at this time described by Colonel Jenkins as "a very nice intelligent lad, five or six years of age." Mr. Moore appears to have meddled with politics. The Dewan and his party were averse to the English education of the young Maharaja, and opposed the measure. Thus the progress made by Narendra Narayan under the tuition of Mr. Moore was slow. The services of Mr. Moore were accordingly dispensed with in April 1851 Previous to his death, however, Shivendra Narayan had expressed a wish that the Government should undertake the supervision of his son's education, and accordingly Mr. (afterwards Sir) Cecil Beadon addressed Colonel Jenkins a letter, dated the 11th September 1852, to the effect that "His Lordship the most Noble the Governor of Bengal is determined to fulfil the dying wish of the late Raja of Cooch Behar in regard to the education of his son;" and instructed that the minor Maharaja was to be sent either to Dacca or Krishnanagar as the Maharanis might choose. This limited choice of place only was allowed to the Maharanis, who were evidently hostile to the idea of a foreign education. The removal of the prince from Cooch Behar was a foregone conclusion, as appears from the instructions issued by Government, that in the event of any "resistance being expressed or any delay attempted, the Agent was to proceed to

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The journey took about a year.

It was in those days customary to issue pass-port to an individual travelling in India. The practice was abolished after 1856.

Cooch Behar, and at once carry the measure into effect." Thus notwitstanding the opposition of the Maharanis and the officers of the court, Narendra Narayan was taken to Krishnanagar, and placed in the College there on the 4th July 1853.

At this time the young Maharaja was about 11 years of age. He was admitted in the 4th class, and attended school as a simple student, without any marks of distinction.

Residence at Krishnanagar.

At Krishnanagar Narendra Narayan lived in a house within a compound of its own at the Maharaja of Nadia's residence. Rajmantri Sivaprosad was for a time allowed to live with him. His companions were three boys of his own establishment, the Rajmantri's son, and two sons of the Maharaja of Nadia. A sum of Rs. 237 was sanctioned for his monthly expenditure.[114] On the 17th August following a private tutor was appointed for him on Rs. 20 a month.

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114. The young Maharaja was given the following establishment as a pupil to begin with. This the Government proposed to reduce "as the Raja became accustomed to his new position and reconciled to the change of life, which he had been required, for his future advantage, to submit to."

"List of domestic establishment, to be in attendance on the young Raja of Cooch Behar during his stay at the Krishnanagar College, as submitted by Mr. B. Wood, Sub-Assistant to Commissioner, Assam:—

	Rs.	A.	P.
2 Brahmin cooks @ Rs. 5 each per mensem ...	10	0	0
3 Khidmatgars " 3 " " " ...	9	0	0
3 Personal attendants @ Rs. 3 " " ...	9	0	0
2 Nurses one @ Rs. 5 and one @ Rs. 4 per mensem ...	9	0	0
2 Watermen " 3 each " " ...	6	0	0
2 Sweepers " 3 " " ...	6	0	0
1 Dhobie for whole establishment " 9 " " ...	9	0	0
1 Barber @ Rs. 3 " " ...	3	0	0
1 Tailor " 3 " " ...	3	0	0
4 Darwans for Toshakhana " 3-4 " " ...	13	0	0
1 Maharer to keep household expense accounts, to pay servants and to write Raja's private letters ...	12	0	0
3 Boy's schooling fee @ Rs. 2 each per mensem and subsistence allowance made to each @ Rs. 3-8 per mensem	16	8	0
Raja's dieting expenses per mensem	60	0	0
Candles, oil, charcoal, and wood	12	0	0
Contingencies, pocket-money &c.	15	0	0
Expenses in keeping up a carriage and a pair of horses to take the young Raja to and from College :—			
1 Coachman @ Rs. 7 per mensem	7	0	0
2 Syces @ Rs. 5 each " "	10	0	0
2 Grass-cutters @ Rs. 3-8 each per mensem ...	7	0	0
Feeding and contingencies of two horses @ Rs. 10 each	20	0	0
Total monthly expenditure ...	236	8	0

Select Records, Vol. II, pages 186-87.

The conduct of the young Maharaja was always good at school. He is described by the class-master as "attentive to his studies, well-behaved, and regular in his attendance." Mr. H. Rochfort, Principal of the College, spoke of him as an "ingenuous tractable youth and possessed of abilities," just after his admission, and as a "good tempered and intelligent youth," a year after.

Tuition in Calcutta.

From Krishnanagar Maharaja Narendranarayan went to the Court of Wards Institution at Calcutta, where he remained under the guardianship of Babu (afterwards Raja) Rajendra Lal Mitter, till 1859, when he attained his majority at the age of eighteen.

Regency

During his minority first his natural father Bajrendranarayan, and after his death in 1857, his adoptive mothers Maharanis Kameswari and Bindeswari managed the affairs of the country as regents.

Administration by Bengal Government.

In 1848, the territory of Cooch Behar, so long as it might be managed or superintended in its management, was placed under the jurisdiction of Government of Bengal, all questions, however, of an important political bearing being referred to the Supreme Government.

Prohibition of Suttee.

The Suttee or the custom of *Sahamaran* was prohibited in Cooch Behar in 1849.

Near Ksheti.

BOUNDARY DISPUTE WITH BHUTAN.—The boundary dispute with Bhutan near Ksheti, which had been settled in 1845, again arose in 1848, up to which date the State could retain possession of the lands. The Bhutias committing fresh aggressions with respect to the same, Dr. Campbell made another enquiry and confirmed his previous decision, in February 1849. When he last visited Ksheti he thought it necessary to appoint a guard for the protection of the disputed land, and despatched 20 sepoys and two native officers from the Hill Ranges. This guard had to be withdrawn shortly after, owing to the occurrence of dispute with Sikkim.

Survey of twenty-two *chalas*.

In 1850, there were apprehensions of a further outbreak of the dispute. A survey of the boundary between Cooch Behar and Bhutan was ultimately taken in hand by Captain Mathew, under orders of Government, and Deputy Collector Mr. Bedford laid the boundary in 1851, in which was included the work of surveying the twenty-two *challas* in Maraghat. Major Jenkins proposed to consolidate these isolated pieces of land into one plot, which was not, however, approved by Government Only the necessary boundary-pillars were ordered to be erected.

Bhutia outrage in Tenganmari.

Bhutan, however, respected this settlement of the boundary no better than the previous ones, and in 1857 committed several dacoities within the Cooch Behar territory, one of which was in the house of Sakalu Pradhan of Tenganmari, in which property worth a large amount was plundered, one of the Prodhan's *Chobdars* was killed, other servants wounded, and his brother and brother-in-law were carried away captives, the former of whom escaped, and the latter died in confinement.

In reporting upon these outrages committed by the Bhutias, Colonel Jenkins, in 1859, strongly urged the adoption of hard measures towards Bhutan, and foreshadowed the occupation of the Duars as the only effectual means of putting down these depredations [115].

Outrage near north-western frontier.

On the 25th August 1861, some Bhutias from the frontiers of Mainaguri carried away four *Mahuts*. On the representation of Maharaja Narendranarayan, Mr. Hopkinson, Agent to the Governor General, North-East Frontier, demanded of the Deva and Dharma Rajas the restoration of the abducted *Mahuts*, and pressed for giving up the persons concerned in the affair.

Dacoity by Bhutias in Chhat Bholka.

Scarcely had full two months passed when in the beginning of November 1861, a gang of 70 or 80 Bhutias from the Bholka Duar committed dacoity in Taluks Chhat Bhalka and Deotikhata Naziran, and carried away cash and property to a large amount, as also abducted two women and five men. The Havildar in charge of the guard at Berbera (Jaldhoya) could not render any assistance. Then, in January 1862, a body of 50 or 60 armed Bhutias entered the house of one Pedu Das of Madhurbhasa, looted his property, and wounded him.

Outrages near Pundibari.

When such things were happening in the extreme north-east of the State, Bhutia outrages were also occurring in the tract of country near Pundibari, where a guard of 10 sepoys had to be deputed for the protection of the subjects. In one of the struggles of this guard with a gang of Bhutias the sepoys were wounded, and one of them was carried away by the Bhutias.

Outrages committed by Aran Sing.

Dispute with Guma.—In November 1849, Aran Sing, Zemindar, Guma, who lived on the east or left bank of the Gadadhar,

115. "Nothing, I conceive, will effectually put a stop to these daring inroads, but the posting of a considerable force of Government troops, disposed in one or two detachments on the frontier of Cooch Behar; but the mere presence of these guards will not be sufficient, I fear, to induce the Bhutia authorities to give up the unfortunate individuals, now detained in captivity, and the restitution of the value of the property, which has, from time to time, been plundered from the Behar villages, except by the actual occupation of one or more of the Duars, until our demands are fully complied with." Letter of Colonel Jenkins to the Government of Bengal, dated 9th March 1859. Select Records, Vol. II, page 210.

opposite our Taluk Chhát Bara Lawkuti, and had a large body of armed men, encroached upon the *char* of the river on the west bank. In the affray that took place some rayots of the State were killed. Aran Sing was a powerful man, and the land on his side of the river, comprising the present Taluk of Kamandanga was fully cultivated. The rayots of Cooch Behar were few and scattered, and left without any authority whatsoever to protect them.

Settlement of the dispute.

Captain Strat, Assistant of Goalpara, was deputed by Colonel Jenkins to settle the boundary, and have it laid down by Mr. Bedford. Mr. Kelso, Sub-assistant Revenue Surveyor, who shortly after surveyed this boundary, shows the alluvial ground of the Gadadhar around Bara Lawkuti as in dispute. The dispute has long been settled, and the land now forms part of our Taluk Chhát Bara Lawkuti. The conditions of things of 1849 have now changed places, and the Cooch Behar side of the river is now prosperous and cultivated, while Kamandanga has considerably run wild. Nothing but the name of the once powerful Aran Sing now lives in the locality marked by a few trees on the deserted abode of the man, amidst surrounding jungles, just on the east bank of the Gadadhar, which too has left the scene of the dispute, and shifted towards the west.

Dispute with Rangpur.—In 1850, a dispute arose on the Rangpur or southern frontier, by the rayots of Cooch Behar and Rangpur trespassing on each other's lands. The Fouzdari Ahilkar, on the complaint of the rayots of the State, applied to the Magistrate of Rangpur to send the defendants to him for purposes of the investigation, which request the latter declined to comply with, on the exparte report of the Daroga of the District.

On the other hand, the Magistrate of Rangpur took cognisance of them as criminal cases himself. In 1851, the Honorable the Court of Directors passed the following orders on the subject, on the complaint of the Maharaja of Cooch Behar :—

Finding of the Court of Directors.

"The Cooch Behar authorities appear to have had reason for their complaint, and we agree in the remarks of the Bengal Government on the subject.

"As that Government observed, neither our courts nor those of Cooch Behar can have power to decide cases when they involve a question of the boundary between the two States. The course, stated to have been usual, is that the Darogas on both sides should meet to settle between them to which territory the disputed land belongs. This course is unobjectionable ; and if they do not

agree, the question of boundary must be investigated, and decided by our Government. [116]"

Settlement of the boundary.

The disputes, however, continued and in the course of the survey of 1856, Mr. Ryland, Deputy Collector, was appointed under Mr. Pemberton to settle them in conjunction with the Cooch Behar authorities. A question being subsequently raised by the Judge of Rangpur in 1859 as to the validity of the line so laid, the Government appointed Mr. MacDonald, Collector of Rangpur, as special Commissioner for the settlement of the boundary. The award of Mr. MacDonald deciding the dispute was confirmed by the Government on the 8th May 1861.

Topographical Survey.

In 1859, a topographical survey of the State was made under Mr. J. G. Pemberton, Revenue-Surveyor. His map is the first regular map of the country now extant.

Sarvarahakar's administration

The country was on the whole well managed by the Sarvarahakar. Mr. J. P. Grant, Secretary to the Government of Bengal, in his letter No. 1 of 1850 to the Agent, remarks : "The general administration though marked by occasional abuses, appears, on the whole, a fair specimen of native rule, and the great increase of cultivation and the condition of the rayots which struck you during your march through the country, are indicative of progress and well-being."

There was an accumulation of Rs. 6,52,620 in Government promissory notes during the minority of Maharaja Narendranarayan.

Establishment of the Jenkins school.

In 1861 the Maharaja established an English school in the town of Cooch Behar, which he named 'Jenkins school,' after Colonel Jenkins, Agent to the Governor-General, North-East Frontier, who was a good friend to the Maharaja and a great benefactorof the State.

Recognition of the right of adoption and heriditary title

In 1862, the Government of India granted a *Sunnad* to the Maharaja of Cooch Behar conferring on him and his successors the right of adoption on failure of natural heirs. In the same year the Government formally recognised the title of Maharaja Bahadur, and granted Narendranarayan a *Sunnad* conferring upon him that distinction.

Informations regarding roads &c for purposes of movement of troops.

In 1862, Lieutenant Sadler was appointed by Government to obtain information regarding roads and grounds &c., between Cooch Behar and Jalpaiguri to the west, Dhubri to the east, and Rangpur to the south. This survey was undertaken with a view to facilitate the movement of troops.

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[116] Extract from a despatch from the Honourable the Court of Directors No. 37 of 1851, dated the 5th November, para 26.—Select Records, Vol. II page 178.

Owing to disturbances on the Bhutan frontier, trade and commerce with that country had been stopped for sometimes past. The Bhutias having ceased committing oppressions for nearly a year, intercourse with Bhutan was re-opened in 1863. Restoration of intercourse with Bhutan.

Maharaja Narendra Narayan had five wives. Maharani Nistarini was the *Patrani*. Rajmata Nishimayi Deo Aye Devati and Brajeswari Madyam Aye Gharani are still living. Maharanis.

The Maharaja, who had been ailing for sometime past, died on the 22nd Sravan, 1270 B. E., corresponding with the 6th August 1863, after a short reign of 4 years only. He was a prince of amiable disposition, and naturally inclined to good. He introduced some reforms into the administration. He died a premature death at the tender age of twenty-two. Death and character.

CHAPTER XI.

6. (XX) NRIPENDRA NARAYAN.

[*From Rája Shaká 354, corresdonding with 1270B.E. & 1863A.D.*]

At midnight, on Thursnay, the 22nd Sravan, 1270 B.E., corresponding with the 6th August, 1863, Maharaja Narendra Narayan breathed his last, leaving two sons and one daughter. Under his dying wishes his only legitimate son Nripendra Narayan was immediately placed on the *gaddi* by Maharanis Kameswari, Vrindeswari and Nistarini, with the support of the principal officers of the State. The succession was subsequently confirmed by the British Government in January 1864. Accession to the Raj.

A will was set up on behalf of the three Maharanis, appointing them joint *Sarvarahakars* during the minority of Nripendra Narayan. On enquiry it was set aside by Government as not genuine. In consequence of dissensions in the family, and the fear that evil result would arise therefrom, the Government resolved upon assuming charge of the State during the minority of its Chief, and deputed Colonel J. C. Haughton, Governor-General's Agent, North-East Frontier, to Cooch Behar as Commssioner in charge of the administration. Such a step was considered by Government to be imperatively called for, as the only means of effectually providing for the care and education of the young Maharaja, for the security of the tribute, and for the defence of the Bhutan frontier, for which the Government was responsible.[117] Will was set aside and Government assumed charge of administration.

The Commissioner of Cooch Behar was vested by the Government with the full authority of the ruler of the State, except in Powers of the Commissioner.

[117] Letter No. 1 dated 15th January 1864, from Major W. Agnew, Offg. Agent of the Governor-General for the North-East Frontier.—Select Records Vol. II, page 275.

regard to certain specified points, such as, the grant of lands, of pensions and gratuities, and the confirmation of capital sentences. These duties of his office he was to exercise in direct communication with Government and not subject to the control of the Governor-General's Agent for the North-East Frontier. [118]

Col. Haughton

Colonel Haughton joined his duties as Commissioner in 1864, and, except for an absence of a year and a half, continued in his post till 1873. Besides the work of administration, an important part of his duty was to see that the young prince was properly cared for and brought up, and this he appears to have done with almost paternal care and affection for his young ward. The value of the work done by that great administrator cannot be better expressed than in the following eloquent words of Mr. Dalton, Deputy Commissoner:—

"And up to the time of Sir George Campbell," writes Mr. Dalton, "Colonel Haughton appears to have always exercised the full powers thus confided to him, and to have done so with a judgment and ability, which, combined with the personal interest which he displayed in all, even the most trivial matters connected with the administration, fully justified the confidence reposed in him, and inaugurated that system of judicial and political reform and financial development, which in the hands of his successors have made Cooch Behar what it is." [119]

His successors.

Colonel Haughton was succeeded as Commissioner by Colonel Bruce in June 1865, who again was relieved by Colonel Agnew; the latter officiated until Colonel Haughton's return in December 1866. Colonel Haughton continued to be at Cooch Behar until February 1873, when he finally left the State. Mr. Richardson and Mr. Metcalfe then in turn officiated as Commissioner up to the 1st March 1874, when Sir W. J. Herschel was appointed. Sir William Herschel left in 1875, when Mr. F. R. Cockerell became Commissioner for a year. He was the first Commissioner of the Rajshahi and Cooch Behar Division, the previous Commissioners having had the charge of the Cooch Behar Division only. Lord H. Ulick Browne succeeded Mr. Cockerell in 1876, and continued to be at the head of the Cooch Behar administration till the Maharaja attained his majority in October 1883, and received charge of his State from the Government.

Formation of Cooch Behar Division.

Colonel Haughton commenced as Commissioner of the Cooch Behar State only, on a salary of Rs. 2,000. When the Second Bhutan War broke out, a Deputy Commissioner was appointed to assist Colonel Haughton, whose time was now entirely taken up

[118] Bengal Government letter No. 456 of the 26th January 1864 to Lieut.-Col. J. C. Haughton.—Select Records, Vol. II. p. 276.

[119] Dalton's Retrospective Sketch of Government administration of Cooch Behar, para 8.

with attending to political duties, and transport matters connected with the expedition. After the conclusion of this war the Cooch Behar Division was formed, comprising the districts of Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, and Goalpara, and the State of Cooch Behar, to which Garo Hills was also added, and Colonel Haughton was placed in charge of the Division. Jalpaiguri was then made the head quarters of the Commissioner, and a large portion of the duties, hitherto performed by him, was delegated to the Deputy Commissioner, who was the principal resident officer at Cooch Behar.

Successive Deputy Commissioners.

The first Deputy Commissioner of Cooch Behar was Mr. H. Beveridge, C.S., who took charge on the 4th November 1864. He was succeeded by Mr. T. Smith on the 1st May 1866, and made over charge to Captain W. Lance in 1868. Captain Lance was relieved by Mr. W. O. A. Beckett on the 22nd December 1870, who in his turn was succeeded by Mr. Smith, who returned to Cooch Behar in February 1872, and remained till April 1875, when Captain Lewin relieved him. Captain Lewin went on 6 month's leave in April 1876, and Mr. J. G. B. T. Dalton was appointed to officiate, and subsequently confirmed, in the post, at which he remained till the end of the British administration of the country, with the exception of 3 months when he went on privilege leave, and Mr. E. A. Bradbury, C.S., officiated, and again when on his taking furlough in 1881, Captain (afterwards Lieutenant-Colonel) A. Evans Gordon officiated till his return in December 1882.

The Dewan.

When Colonel Haughton assumed charge in 1864, Babu Nilkamal Sanyal was the Dewan. That officer died in December 1868, when there was a short interregnum, during which the work was done by local officers. Rai Calica Doss Dutt Bahadur, B.L., afterwards created a Companion of the Indian Empire, the present Head of the Revenue Administration and Senior Member of the State Council, who was then a Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, was selected and appointed Dewan in August 1869, assumed charge of his office on the 23rd September of that year, and was duly installed in a formal Darbar of usual state on the 12th February 1870.

Administrative machinery under Government.

The Dewan was the Head of the Revenue Dept., the Dewani Ahilkar of Civil, and the Fouzdari Ahilkar of Criminal Justice. The Accounts, the Military and the Police, as well as Education and Public Works, were directly under the Deputy Commissioner, who was also the Sessions Judge, and the second Court of Appeal in civil and criminal cases. The collection of Land Revenue was made by the sub-divisional Naib Ahilkars under the supervision of the Dewan, who directly held charge of the

Treasury. All the departments were placed under the Deputy Commissioner, the highest authority in all matters connected with the State resting with the Commissioner, who exercised his powers subject to the control of the Supreme Government.

Assumption of charge by His Highness.

The Installation took place on the 8th November 1883, when the charge of the administration was formally made over to His Highness by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. His Highness thought it advisable not to make any violent disturbance in the administrative arrangements, introduced after much consideration by the successive British administrators. There was no interference with the continuity of the departmental work, although the division of authority and system of control underwent considerable changes.

Constitution of Council.

Under a Memorandum of Administration[120] framed by the Commissioner of the Rajshahi and Cooch Behar Division and adopted by His Highness on the day following the Installation, a Council of State was established with His Highness as President, and three members, namely, the Superintendent of the State, the Dewan, and a Judicial officer, who were to be the Heads of the three Departments of General administration, the administration of Revenue, and that of Civil Justice.

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[120] The Memorandum of Administration is quoted below in *extenso*:—

The Maharaja is satisfied that the present system of Administration, under which the State and its people have prospered and made such satisfactory progress, and for which he is much indebted to the British Government, leaves nothing to be desired, and that if he were in a position to assume the functions and duties of supervision now discharged by the Commissioner and in some cases by Government, no change whatever would be necessary. The Maharaja feels, however, that his youth and inexperience in Executive and Judicial business would place him at a disadvantage if he acted alone, and therefore, while reserving to himself the right to exercise hereafter all the authority and powers wielded by his predecessors, should he think fit to do so, he has resolved to act for the present in some important matters by and with the advice of a Council. The following is a general sketch of the system he intends to adopt, and he trusts that he may have the approval of the British Government in regard to it :—

2. The Cooch Behar State Council will consist of three Members with the Maharaja as President. The members will be the Superintendent of the State, the Dewan, and an experienced Judicial officer whose services the Maharaja hopes to obtain from the British Government. In the Maharaja's absence the Superintendent will act as Vice-President of the Council. Three members will be entirely independent of each other, and it will be the duty of each to see that all measures &c., decided on in Council are carried out, he reporting at the next meeting what has been done in the matter.

3. The annual State Budget will, after the officers in charge of Departments have submitted their proposals, and after those proposals have been considered by the members of the Council, be brought up and discussed in Council, after which it will be submitted to the Maharaja for sanction, without which the Budget will not be finally settled. Expenditure in excess of the Budget will not be incurred under any heading without the Maharaja's sanction. When he has sanctioned the Budget, it will rest, as at present, with the Heads of Departments to spend within certain limits their allotments in accordance with the details of the Budget, and it will be the duty of the

"In our absence," to quote from the proclamation issued by His Highness on the day following the Installation, "the Superintendent will act as Vice-President of the Council. State Council

"The Superintendent will supervise, direct and control the administration of Criminal Justice and the Police, the Military, Jail, Public Works, Education and Audit Departments, and will be the Sessions Judge, hearing all Criminal appeals which ordinarily lie to the Sessions Judges, but will not act as a Civil Judge except when sitting in Council. Superintendent of the State.

"The Dewan will be in charge of the Revenue Department, being responsible for the collection of all kinds of Revenue, and the supervision of all proceedings in connection therewith. Dewan

"The Judicial Member of the Council will hear Civil and Revenue appeals of certain classes, and supervise the administration of Civil Justice, all final appeals lying to the Council." Judicial Member.

State Auditor to check the expenditure. Each member of the Council will be at liberty to transfer savings under one head of the budget to another under which additional expenditure is thought necessary or advisable, provided that both heads come under the member's department. In cases in which the sanction of the Deputy Commissioner is now required it will be accorded by the three members of the Council, each for his own Department, and in cases where the Commissioner's sanction is now required the sanction of the Council will be necessary. The disposal of all surplus revenue in excess of the budget will rest entirely with the Maharaja.

4. The Superintendent of the State will supervise, direct and control the administration of Criminal Justice, and the Police, Military, Jail, Public Works, Education and Audit Departments and will be Sessions Judge, hearing all Criminal appeals which ordinarily lie to Sessions Judges, but will not act as a Civil Judge, except when sitting in Council.

5. The Dewan will be in charge of the Revenue Department, being responsible for the collection of all kinds of revenue, and the supervision of all proceedings in connection therewith. The Treasury Officer will be his subordinate, and it will be the Dewan's duty to test the cash, notes and stamp balances once in every three months on fixed dates. The Dewan will not exercise Judicial powers, appeals from the decisions of his subordinates in rent suits lying to the Civil Court, but he will hear appeals from their orders in revenue executive matters, such as sales for arrears, mutation cases &c.

6. The Judicial Member of Council will hear all Civil and Revenue appeals, in which the subject-matter of the suit exceeds in value Rs. 100 in Small Cause Court cases, and Rs. 50 in other cases, and he will in addition try original Civil and Rent suits in which the value exceeds Rs. 500. This distribution of judicial business is tentative only, and will be liable to modification.

7. The following appeals will lie to the Council :—

(*a*) Appeals from sentences passed by the Sessions Court.

(*b*) Civil appeals, both on the facts and on points of law, from the decision of the Judicial Member in original suits, and

(*c*) Special appeals on law points only in other Civil and Revenue cases. Sentences of death must be confirmed by the Council in every case, and no appeals will be necessary.

8. The Assistant Ahilkar of the Malcutchery or Revenue Department will be in charge of the Treasury, and, in all matters not otherwise provided for in this memorandum, the Heads of Departments and their subordinates will exercise the powers and discharge the duties now entrusted to them.

Chaklajat Estates.

The Chaklajat Estates were placed directly under the Council, and Rai Taraknath Mallik Bahadur, Manager, was made a Member of the Council with a vote, like the other members, with respect to all matters connected with the above estates.

In August 1885, the Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division was appointed by the Government of India *ex-officio* Political Agent for the Cooch Behar State, for the purpose of chapters IV and V of Act XXI of 1879 (Foreign Jurisdiction and Extradition Act), and the Superintendent of the Cooch Behar State was appointed Justice of the Peace within the State for the trial of European British subjects infringing the laws of

9. No new tax will be imposed by the Maharaja without the consent of his Council, but it will be open to him to veto any such tax proposed by the Council. No salaries will be altered, and no establishment changed either by reductions or additional appointments, except by a decision of the Council confirmed by the Maharaja. It will be the duty of the Council to consult the Maharaja in all matters of importance, and by letter if necessary. If he disapproves of any measure passed in his absence, he will call a full meeting of the Council, at which he will himself preside, and to re-open the question. The Maharaja will have two votes when presiding in the Council, and each of the member one vote. Matters specially reserved for the Maharaja's decision or authority will not be settled in Council at all, though the Maharaja may consult any members of it as he pleases. Questions coming before the Council will be decided by a majority of votes.

10. As regards the Chaklajat Estates in British territory, the budget will be prepared by the Manager and settled in Council, after which the Manager will be allowed to spend money within budget limits under each heading within the following limits. For expenditure he will require no sanction as regards matters sanctioned by the District officer in the case of Wards Estates in British territory. In matters requiring in British Districts the sanction of the Commissioner, the sanction of the Council must be obtained. The Manager will be allowed to transfer savings under one head of the budget to another head.

He will institute rent suits and institute and defend ordinary civil suits without sanction, taking legal advice on the principles adopted in Estates under the Court of Wards. Important matters, which, though not involving expenditure, would by their nature be submitted to the Commissioner if the Estates were still under the Court of Wards, will be laid before the Council, and the same as regards the institution or defence of civil suits of great importance or involving large amounts. The business connected with the Chaklajat Estates to be settled in Council, will ordinarily be taken up once or twice a month, and for such matters (only) the Manager will be a member of Council with a vote like the other members. In the event of the votes of the Council being equally divided, the Vice-President will, in the Maharaja's absence, have a casting vote. It will be the duty of the Council to consult the Maharaja in matters of special importance connected with these estates, and he will re-open matters, as provided in paragraph 9 of this memorandum, if he disapproves of the decisions or orders of the Council issued in his absence.

11. Neither the Council nor the Administration of Cooch Behar will, with the exception of the Audit Department, have anything to do with the Maharaja's Estate in Darjeeling. All the business connected with this property will be carried on by the Agent in direct communication with the Maharaja, the State Auditor continuing to audit the expenditure as at present. Any difference of opinion between the Agent and the Auditor will be referred for the decision of the Maharaja.

the country.[121] The Court of Sessions at Rangpur was given jurisdiction in cases committed for trial by the Justice of the Peace for Cooch Behar.

Changes in Chaklajat administration.

On the retirement of Rai Taraknath Mallik Bahadur from State service, the Chaklajat Estates were placed under the control of the Dewan in December 1884. This arrangement continued down to May 1889, when Kumar Gajendranarayan, Bar-at-Law, was appointed Manager and placed directly under the Council of which he became an *ex-officio* Member.

Modification of Memorandum of Administration in 1891.

In December 1891, the Memorandum of Administration of 1883 was considerably modified. The constitution of the

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121 No. 26561, dated Simla, the 12th August 1885.

FROM—The Junior Under-Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

TO—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Political Department.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 86 J. D. dated the 22nd April 1885, regarding the proposed appointment of the Commissioner of Rajshahi Division to be *ex-officio* Political Agent for the Cooch Behar State.

2. You state in your letter that it is understood that the objections felt by His Highness the Maharaja to the appointment sanctioned in this office communication No. 32051, dated the 23rd August 1884, were due to a misconception of its scope, and that His Highness would not oppose the appointment of the Commissioner to be *ex-officio* Political Agent for his State for the purposes of Chapters IV and V of Act XXI of 1879, with a general direction under Section 13, to make over persons accused of having committed an offence in the State for trial by the ordinary Courts of the State.

3. In reply, I am to say that the Governor-General in Council accepts this proposal, and is accordingly pleased under the provisions of Section 3 of the Foreign Jurisdiction and Extradition Act, 1879, to appoint the Commissioner of Rajshahi for the time being, to exercise the powers of a Political Agent under Chapters IV and V of the said Act for the State of Cooch Behar. With regard to the suggestion that for offence committed in the State the person accused should, under section 13, be handed over to the Courts of the State for trial, I am to say that the Governor-General in Council is pleased to approve the proposal, subject however, to the observance of the conditions imposed by the rules* under the Extradition Act, and to the further condition that in any particular instance, should there be special reasons for his so doing, the Political Agent may dispose of the case himself. In this connection I am to desire that the attention of the Government of Bengal may be directed to the caution conveyed in paragraph 4 of the letter from this office No. 30181, dated the 7th August 1884.

* Notification, Foreign Department No. 871, dated 16th August 1876.

5. With reference to the concluding paragraph of your letter, relative to the necessity for some arrangement with the Durbar, regarding the surrender of criminal fugitives from British India, I am to say that no special arrangement appears to be necessary. The Government of India have a right to claim the extradition of offenders from all Native States. It is assumed that the Maharaja would, according to the usual practice, comply with any application that might be made for the surrender of such criminal fugitives. The Judicial Officers serving under the Government of Bengal should, therefore, be informed that, where extradition from Cooch Behar is required, official application should be made to the Political Agent, who will address the necessary communication to the Durbar."

Council on the Judicial side was remodelled, and a Court consisting of two Members (the Member from whom appeals lay before the Council being left out) similar to a Division Bench of the Calcutta High Court, was established. Any difference of opinion either upon evidence or upon a point of law between the two Members was to be referred to a Full Bench consisting of all the Members with the Maharaja as President. All motions against the orders of subordinate officers were to be heard by a Bench composed of all the three Members of the Council.

State Council.

On the Legislative side, it was the intention of His Highness to appoint Additional Members from time to time, from amongst the Rajguns, the intelligent and wealthy Jotedars, and from the Bar.

The powers exercised by the Council and by the Heads of Departments, as well as by the Manager for the Chaklajat Estates, in sanctioning expenditure within their Budget allotments, and in transferring savings from one head of the Budget to another, were modified and curtailed.

Provision was also made for the inspection of the offices of the Departmental Heads by His Highness, and of the subordinate offices under the three Departments, by the Heads of the Departments.

Sessions Judge.

The Civil Judge was appointed Sessions Judge in addition to his duties, and the Superintendent of the State ceased to be a Sessions Judge, and the Dewan, an Additional Sessions Judge to which office he had been appointed in 1890-91.

Fauzdari Ahilkar.

The powers of the Fauzdari Ahilkar were defined and made to correspond with those of a District Magistrate of British India. In this connection the powers of the Superintendent of Police were also formally laid down.

Supdt. of Works.

The Superintendent of works formerly enjoyed large powers. These were curtailed. The status of that officer was defined to be that of an Executive Engineer of Bengal, with certain modifications of the powers of sanctioning expenditure for original works and repairs, and of appointment of subordinate officers and granting leave to them.

Inspector of Schools.

The post of the Superintendent of Education having been abolished, the charge of Primary and Secondary Education was placed with the Inspector of Schools, with the exception of the Jenkins School.

In the case of Public Works and Education the higher powers hitherto enjoyed by the Superintendents of Works and Education merged in the Superintendent of the State.

The Audit Department was transferred from the office of the Superintendent of the State, and placed under His Highness's immediate control. It was to remain in Cooch Behar, but would have a distnct and separate existence for check and control of expenditure, which was the chief object of such an institution. But the Audit office, though stationed in Cooch Behar, formed a part of the Maharaja's Office, and the Auditor was empowered to act in ordinary matters of accounts and check under the Codes, independently. In matters of difference of opinion between him and the Heads of Departments in interpretation of the Codes, and all other important matters, the Auditor was to refer the subject for decision to His Highness in the General Department, who, if necessary, would consult the Council before finally disposing of the matter in question. Audit Office.

In matters relating to the preparation of the Budget, the Audit Office would receive Departmental Budget Estimates as formerly, prepare the Budgets and submit the same to the Council. The Audit Office was also to furnish such informations regarding financial matters as they might want.

In 1894-95, the designation of 'Auditor' was changed, under the orders of His Highness, to 'Accountant-General.'

The Chaklajat Estates finally ceased to be directly under the Council from the 8th October 1895, when they were for the second time placed under the supervision of the Dewan. Chaklajat Estates.

CHAPTER XII.

ADMINISTRATION OF COOCH BEHAR.

THE OLD REGIME.

Mr. Beveridge, Deputy Commissioner, made the following remarks on the government of Cooch Behar, as he found it, in his Annual Report for 1865-67 :—

Want of organisation.

"Before the appointment of a British Commissioner the government of Cooch Behar was in a deplorable condition. It neither had the small rigour which may be supposed to characterise the government of a thoroughly Native State, such as Nepal ; nor had it the organisation of a civilised State. It was in fact a mongrel government, being a cross as it were, produced by the Bhutia or Koch idea of government, and those which the Bengali *amlah* supposed to be ours. Hence the idea of the Raja being above the law, and of every thing in the country being his, existed side by side with the ideas of a Stamp Act, and of appeals, both regular and special, *ad infinitum*.

Want of cohesion.

"There was no cohesion or real subordination in any part of the administration from top to bottom. Every officer did what was right in his eyes, and acknowledged no authority but that of the Raja, and his subordination even to him was in most cases only lip-service. All heads of offices (except the Raja's store-keeper,) and nearly all the ministerial officers were Bengalis.

"At the same time, I am bound to admit that the Raja's government was in some respects a kindly and well-meaning one. It supported a Dharmasala and patronised Pundits, and, though it paid its servants neither regularly nor liberally, yet it often treated them with a delicacy and consideration which was almost excessive.

"Perhaps the best description, when Colonel Haughton took charge, would be that it was just what a Bengal Zillah was some forty years ago. Former Commissioners had brought it also to the level of the Zillah administration in their day, and at that point it had struck. Since then it had made a fresh advance, but a great deal remains to be done.

"The administration of Cooch Behar has not for many years been that of a purely Native State ; for ever since the treaty with the British Government it has been powerfully acted upon by European ideas. Its proximity too to Rangpur, and the fact of all the *amlah* being natives of Bengal proper, assimilated many of its institutions to those of British India."

The system of administration of the country under the old Maharajas was an exceedingly cheap one as far as the actual payment of money out of State coffers was concerned. The pay of nearly all the officers was on a wretchedly small scale, and, in the case of the judicial establishments, hardly ever paid, the officers being left to pay themselves and their establishments out of the collections of their courts. The only way in which an officer could honestly live at all was by holding three or four different offices. When Colonel Haughton took charge of the administration he found cases of plurality of appointments exceedingly numerous. It was also a common practice too for the Maharajas to appoint one of their relations on little or no salary to the nominal charge of an office, while the work was really done by the Sheristadar or other subordinate officer. Some of the pays attached to very important offices were ridiculously low. The Treasury officer used to get Rs. 22-8-0 a month ; the Superintendent of Public Works, Rs. 18-12, and the Dharmadhyakya or Master of Religious Ceremonies, Rs. 7-8-0 a month. Unlike under the present system, these officers were at the head of the departments concerned, directly under the Maharaja himself ; and by far the greater portion of the disbursements in connection with the administration passed through their hands. Evils of a cheap government.

The number of officers again was abnormally large. There were five different officers for the collection of Land Revenue as it is understood at the present time, and they were independent of one another. Three or four separate offices did the work now performed by the Duar Mukhtear under the supervision of the Dewan. This state of things might, however, have been a necessity of the times, and might have been due to the difficulty of finding efficient men in whose management different offices of the same kind could be safely confided. Pluralities of appointments

Thus, while pluralities of appointments were common in some cases, the number of offices was unduly large in others. And when considered with the fact of the posts carrying a very small pay, and the irregularity in the payment of even that pittance, it is no wonder there was much abuse and corruption in the administration, and that instances of even the officers taking undue gratification were not uncommon.

The increase of the salary of officers of all grades was thus a stern necessity of the new regime. "On the whole," again observes Mr. Beveridge in his Annual Report for 1865-66, "while of course holding that expenditure should be reduced as much as possible, I am of opinion that a greater increase in the expenditure of the State in Civil adminis- Reforms found necessary. Increase of pay of officers.

tration must be accepted as a necessary consequence of the appointment of a British Commissioner. Even putting aside his salary, (which at the time of Colonel Haughton's appointment exceeded those of all the heads of offices in Cooch Behar put together), it is impossible that a British officer can administer Cooch Behar without an efficient staff of subordinates, and these can only be procured by giving liberal salaries."

Curtailment of some expenditure.

On the other hand, curtailment of expenditure was urgently called for in some departments. In the department of religious expenditure more money was spent than the state of finances could allow. The number of ladies residing in the palace was very large. The Rajgans and Karjis, or relatives and connections of the Maharaja, were numerous. Their maintenance was a heavy charge on the administration.

Resources of Government limited.

The resources of the government were not large. The only source of revenue worth mention was land, and even this was not properly taxed. The Land Revenue was entirely in the hands of Ijardars. As these farmers were for the most part the officers of the State, or their relations and connections, the settlement of revenue was made on easy terms, and there was practically none to look to its improvement. Large quantities of land had been alienated often with questionable authority as Brahmattar and rent-free lands, and thus the way to future enhancement of revenue had been practically closed.

Bad condition of the people.

Again, under a weak system of administration, and owing to the want of proper arrangement for the suppression of crime and maintenance of the peace, the material prosperity of the people was at a low ebb, notwithstanding the excellent natural resources of the country. Absence of suitable means of communication kept the farmer and his produce confined within a small compass, and the products of agriculture fetched a fabulously low price. Two maunds of paddy for a Narani rupee, or a little above ten annas in modern currency, was but the ordinary price in the middle of the present century, while in the beginning of the century even $3\frac{1}{2}$ maunds could be had for the same value. Education and morality were at discount; and, in short, Cooch Behar was far behind the British Districts of Bengal in matters physical, intellectual and moral.

Colonel Haughton and his reforms.

The man destined to put things to right in the country was Colonel Haughton, and a better choice could not perhaps have been made by Government in the selection of an administrator for the State. With an indomitable courage and wonderful strength of mind and perseverence of determination, and a rare

honesty of purpose, he set to work with more than personal interest in the affairs of the Raj and penetrated into the minutest details of every department. His vigorous yet considerate mode of procedure achieved highly satisfactory results in a very short time. He largely improved the resources of the Revenue, established a regular budget system regulating receipts and expenditure, introduced thorough reforms in the administration of Justice, established a good system of Police, cut down all unnecessary expenditure, laid out large sums on Public Works and Education, and encouraged morality and honesty in every branch of administration and in every grade of life. So that when he left Cooch Behar in 1873 not even full 8 years after his arrival, he had sown all those seeds of good Government and improvement in the country, which under the fostering care of his successors and able assistants, have brought the State to its present state of development and prosperity.

Sir Richard Temple on the administration.

Sir Richard Temple, Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, paid the following tribute to the administration of Colonel Haughton after his visit to Cooch Behar in 1875:—"In the first place there seemed to be an earnest spirit pervading the administration, showing that the British officers, who have during the minority of the Raja supervised the management of the State, must have endeavoured in an anxious, almost an enthusiastic, way to promote its welfare. All this is greatly owing to the zeal, considerateness and forethought of Colonel Haughton, whose services have been cordially acknowledged by the late Lieutenant-Governor. In every direction I seemed to perceive signs of sincere efforts, not only for the prosperity of the Raja and his family, but also for the welfare of those on whom the prosperity of the Raja himself must depend, namely, the great majority of the people.

"I have noticed with commendation the native gentlemen, heads of the several departments. Indeed one of the principal merits in the administration lies in the selection of a body of of really excellent native officers trained in the best official schools." [122]

The details of the administration in the various Departments, and a history of their development are given in the following pages.

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[122] Sir Richard Temple's Minute on the Administration of the Cooch Behar State, dated the 6th July 1875.

CHAPTER XIII.

ADMINISTRATION OF COOCH BEHAR. *(Continued)*

THE NEW REGIME.

SECTION I.

The State Council.

The broad lines of the British administration of the State during the minority of the Maharaja, and the general principles of government adopted by His Highness after his installation have already appeared. The details of both are given below:

Broad lines of Government.

In the Memorandum of Administration the following broad lines of government were laid down:—

1. The position hitherto occupied by the British Government regarding the State was assumed by His Highness.

2. The functions of the Commissioner were in a general way delegated to the State Council, and those of the Deputy Commissioner, divided among three officers, viz. the Superintendent of the State, the Dewan, and the Civil Judge.

Three degrees of authority.

Three degrees of authority were thus created in the country: First, His Highness, the Ruler of the country and Supreme Head of the government; secondly, the State Council, the main deliberative and controlling body and immediate head of the Judiciary and the Executive; and, thirdly, the Departmental Heads, the actual workers of the administration.

President and Members.

Constitution of Council.—The Council was opened with His Highness as President, and three members, namely, the Superintendent of the State, who was the *ex-officio* Vice-President, the Dewan, who was the senior member, and the Manager of the Chaklajat Estates. No one had yet been appointed to the newly created post of the Civil Judge. The Judicial Member first took seat in the Council on the 2nd February 1884.

Vice-President and Superintents of State.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. Evans Gordon I.S.C., was the first Vice-President of the Council, and Superintendent of the State, and joined his office in November 1883. He was an officer lent by Government, and reverted to Government service on the 31st October 1891. Rai Calica Doss Dutt Bahadur, C. I. E., Senior Member of the Council and Dewan of the State, acted in both the capacities in addition to his own duties, so long as Mr. E. E. Lowis, a late Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division

and Political Agent for this State, who was appointed as Lieutenant-Colonel Gordon's successor in office, did not relieve him on the 3rd December of that year. Mr. Lowis was succeeded by Mr. D. R. Lyall, C.S.I., late Member of the Revenue Board, Bengal, on the 2nd April 1896. His term of office expired in March 1899, and he was succeeded by Major J. R. C. Colvin, I.S.C., the present Vice-President of the Council, and Superintendent of the State. The services of this officer have been lent by Government.

Senior Member and Dewan.

Rai Calica Doss Dutt Bahadur, C.I.E., likewise an officer lent by Government, who had been the Dewan since 1869, was appointed Senior Member of the State Council after the Installation. He has since been holding both the offices. On his retirement from Government service in 1893-94, his services were specially retained by His Highness.

Judicial Members.

Rai Balaram Mallick Bahadur, B.L., a Subordinate Judge of Bengal, whose services were lent to the State by Government, was appointed Judicial Member of the Council and Civil Judge, and took over charge of his duties on the 31st January 1883. On his reversion to Government service in December 1886, Babu Jadub Chandra Chakravarti, an officer lent by Government, who had been the Fauzdari Ahilkar of this State since 1869, was appointed to succeed him, and assumed charge of his duties on the 31st December. He retired from service on the 1st August 1898, and was succeeded by Babu Priyanath Datta, M.A., B.L., the present incumbent, on promotion from the post of the Fauzdari Ahilkar.

Votes and quorum.

Fauzdari Ahilkar.

The President has, in all deliberations of Council, the casting vote, the other Members having single votes. Three Members form a quorum. During the temporary vacancy in the post of any Member, the Fauzdari Ahilkar is generall yauthorised to sit in the Council to form the quorum.

On all past occasions when His Highness was away from India, the Councillors were authorised by him by special memoranda to carry on the administration with almost supreme powers during his asbsence.

First meeting of Council.

The first meeting of the State Council was held on the 12th November 1883.

Functions of the Council.

The functions of the State Council are three-fold: Legislative, Executive and Judicial. On the Legislative side the Council passes laws and enactments. On the Executive side it regulates the management of the different departments. In matters Judicial the Council is the highest Court of Appeal, having

final jurisdiction in Civil, Criminal and Revenue suits and proceedings. The Council have the power to frame rules and regulations for the management of the Judicial side.

Departmental Heads.

As already noticed, the departments under the control of the State Council are three in number, namely, the General Department, the Revenue Department, and the Civil or Judicial Department. The Superintendent of the State is the Head of the first, the Dewan of the second, and the Civil and Sessions Judge of the third. The different subordinate branches of the administration under each of the Departmental Heads are noted below:—

General Department— 1.—Administration of Criminal Justice.
2.—Police.
3.—Jail and Lock-ups.
4.—Education.
5.—Public Works.
6.—Agriculture and Forest.
7.—Medical.
8.—Military.
9.—Philkhana.
10.—State Press.
11.—State Library.

Revenue Department.—1.—Land Revenue.
2.—Settlement.
3.—Treasury and Stamp Revenue.
4.—Excise Revenue.
5.—Offices at the Rajbari.

Judicial Department.—1.—Civil and Criminal Justice.
2.—Registration.

SECTION II.

The General Department.

Under this Head are shortly noticed,(1.) Criminal Justice and Police, and Jail and Lock-ups; (2.) Public Works; (3.) Medical; (4.) Education and (5.) Miscellaneous.

(1.) CRIMINAL JUSTICE, AND POLICE AND JAIL AND LOCK-UPS.

Criminal Justice.—Mr. Smith, Deputy Commissioner, has the following in his Annual Report for 1872-73 regarding the history and constitution of the Criminal courts in the State :—

History and constitution of Criminal courts.

"It seems probable that justice was dispensed by the Raja or his minister in primitive fashion as late as 1791; for when Mr. Douglas, Commissioner, took charge of Cooch Behar in that year he took the administration of Civil and Criminal Justice out of the own hands. The Civil and Criminal Courts of original jurisdiction, namely, the court of the Dewani Ahilkar and that of the Fouzdari Ahilkar, appear to have been constituted when the British authorities withdrew from interference in the internal affairs of Cooch Behar and were doubtless in immitation of the Maffusil courts of the East India Company. Hindu law was referred to in both Civil and Criminal cases, but the Regulations naturally had a powerful influence, being the only modern laws known to the Bengali *amla* who administered the affairs of the Raj.

Courts of Dewani and Fouzdari Ahilkars.

"When the Commissioner took charge of Cooch Behar on behalf of the present young Raja in 1864, the Criminal Courts existing were,—first, the Raj-shabha in which the Raja or the Sarvarahakar, assisted by the two Dewans, disposed of appeals from the Court of Sessions. Secondly, the Court of Sessions, which tried henious offenders and heard appeals from the Fauzdari Ahilkar. This court professed to be guided by the *Shastras*; but the Pundit, while advising the Judge of the sentence prescribed by the *Shastras*, used to suggest some other punishment more consonant with modern ideas, and the Judge was at liberty to disregard both the Pundit's suggestion and the doctrine of the Hindu Code. Thirdly, the Court of the Fauzdari Ahilkar and that of his Assistant, who were guided not by Hindu law, but by the spirit of the Regulations."

Criminal courts existing in 1864.

Procedure in Sessions cases.

"During 1864 and 1865, the time of the Commissioner being monopolised by a great extent by the Bhutan expedition, no extensive changes were made in the Administration of Criminal Justice. The work of the Raj-shabha was transferred to the

Changes in 1864 and 1865.

Commissioner's office. The constitution and procedure of the Sessions Court were retained, a former Sessions Judge, a native, was reinstated, and two additional Naib Ahilkars were appointed to clear off the accumulated arrears of the Fauzdari Court.

Introduction of the Penal Cod and the Code of Criminal Procedure.

"In 1866, the Indian Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure were introduced by an order of the Offg. Commissioner; the details of office work and procedure were revised and corrected ; the native Sessions Judge was removed ; the duties of the Civil and Sessions Judge were added on to those of the Deputy Commissioner ; the old Fauzdari Ahilkar was pensioned off and replaced by a more competent man, and a greatly improved state of things began."

First sub-division established in 1866.

The first Sub-division of the State was established at Toofangunj on the 3rd March 1866, and placed in charge of the Assistant Fauzdari Ahilkar. The Head-quarters of the Sub-division were in the following year removed to Dinhata "which," to quote Mr. Smith, "is a pleasanter and healthier place and is situated in a more populous part of the country."

Powers of sub-divisonal officers.

The Sub-divisional officer had only Criminal jurisdiction. In 1868, owing to accumulation of work both in the Civil and Criminal departments, a second Naib Ahilkar was re-appointed, who exercised both Civil and Criminal powers. With the introduction of the Khas collection system in the Revenue Department and establishment of four additional sub-divisions in the Muffasil in 1872, the Sub-divisional Naib Ahilkars were vested with Civil and Criminal powers within their respective jurisdictions. In the following year two of the new Sub-divisions, namely, Lalbazar and Tufangunj, were abolished and the Muffasil Criminal Courts were brought down to three.

Opening of other sub-divisions.

Powers of the Sessions Judge.

The powers of the Sessions Judge formerly extended to passing a sentence of 14 years' imprisonment; cases requiring heavier punishment were formerly referred to the Raj-sabha, and subsequently to the Commissioner. Capital punishment had not been inflicted for many years before the Commissioner took charge in 1864. The Sessions cases were tried with the assistance of a Law-officer or with assessors. The Law-officer was Pundit Bikramananda Bhattacharya of Khagrabari. The Sessions Court also heard appeals from the decisions of the Fauzdari Ahilkar and the Naib Ahilkars. All decisions of the Fauzdari Ahilkar were subject to appeal to the Judge.

Powers of the Fouzdari Ahilkar.

The powers of the Fauzdari Ahilkar extended to two years rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 200 (Narani) commutable to one additional year's imprisonment. He had no

powers to hear appeals from the subordinate Magistracy. In cases regarding punishment heavier than what the Fauzdari Ahilkar could inflict he committed to the Sessions. He had the charge of the Police and the Jail.

Before the opening of the Sub-divisions the Assistant Fauzdari Ahilkar and the Naib Ahilkar at the Sudder had no power to receive complaints ; they tried such cases as were made over to them by the Fauzdari Ahilkar. The powers of these officers extended to six months' imprisonment and a fine of Rs 50.

Second appeal from Sessions Judge.

Formerly, a special or second appeal lay from the appellate decision of the Sessions Judge in criminal cases to the Commissioner. The practice was abolished in 1868. In that year all sentences of imprisonment not exceeding one month, or of fines not exceeding Rs 50, passed by the Fauzdari Ahilkar, were made final and not subject to appeal.

Changes after the introduction of Act X of 1872.

The Indian Criminal Procedure Code of 1872 (Act X of 1872) was introduced in the State in September 1873. On the introduction of that Code the practice and procedure of Criminal Courts came to be guided by that enactment with certain modifications. The Sub-divisional officers had the powers of Subordinate Magistrates of the first class under the Code, but had no jurisdiction in proceedings under Chapter XXI and XXII of the Code. In 1875, the Sub-divisional Naib Ahilkars were empowered to require security for good behaviour in cases under section 504 of the Criminal Procedure Code. In the following year their jurisdiction was extended to the kidnapping cases. Cases of adultery were not fomerly cognisable by them as at present.

Special powers of the Fauzdari Ahilkar.

Besides the powers under the Criminal Procedure Code the Fauzdari Ahilkar all along enjoyed a summary jurisdiction in cases for the recovery of wife. On an application from the husband the absconding wife was brought up on a warrant, and was, if she admitted marriage, made over to the husband ; when marriage was denied the husband was referred to the Civil Court.

Cattle Trespass Act.

The Bengal Cattle Trespass Act, (Act III of 1857,) was acted up to in the State from a very early time. Subsequently the spirit of Act I of 1871 was followed.[123]

Prohibition of gambling.

In 1850, the Raja-Sabha had prohibited gambling. The spirit of the Gambling Act, (Act II of 1867 B. C.), was ordered to be followed in the Courts of the State in June 1870.

[123] The Cooch Behar Cattle Trespass Act, based on the Government Code was passed in 1882.

Boring the skin.

The custom of boring the skin and riding the Charak-pole on the Chait Sankranti day was prohibited in July 1871.

Evidence Act

The Indian Evidence Act (Act I of 1872) was introduced in Cooch Behar in May 1873. Before that time Norton's Law of Evidence used to be followed in the trials before Magistrates.

Postal offences.

Although the Postal Act was not introduced, the Cooch Behar Courts were declared competent to take cognisance of Postal offences in December 1874.

Witnesses in criminal cases

Formerly, no diary of witnesses in criminal cases was kept. In January 1866, the system of keeping a register of the examination of witnesses was introduced. Before the introduction of the Criminal Procedure Code the witnesses received no diet-money, not even in Sessions cases.

Whipping.

Oaths.

The Magistrate's power to inflict whipping was regulated by Act VI of 1864, although that law was never formally introduced in the State. Similarly, there was no Oaths Act in force, although oaths were administered under the spirit of the Government Act.

Jurisdiction of criminal courts over Rajgans.

Formerly, the Rajgans, or the kinsmen of the Maharaja, do not appear to have been subject to the jurisdiction of the Criminal Courts of the State. In August 1871, owing to a disorderly behaviour of a principal Rajgan Colonel Haughton extended the jurisdiction of the Deputy Commissioner to the trial of offences committed by a Rajgan under certain restrictions.

In 1892-93, the jurisdiction of the Fauzdari Ahildar was extended to the trial of "summons cases" against the Rajgans. Five years later, in 1897-98, this privilege of the Rajgans was withdrawn, and His Highness was pleased to order that in criminal cases no distinction should in future be made between Rajgans and other persons.

Crimes common in the State

Crimes.—The heavy crimes common in Cooch Behar of old days were dacoity and burglary. They were no doubt attributable to the absence of an organised system of Police in the country and the consequent facility with which the offenders evaded justice. Another sort of complaint very frequent was the charge of seduction of the wives brought by many a husband. Murders generally had their origin in domestic intrigue and connubial infidelity. Murders for the sake of extorting or gaining property were of very rare occurrence. Lives were also very rarely lost in disputes over land or other property within the country.

Mr. Smith gives some statistics which are valuable, as enabling us to compare the State of Cooch Behar in his time as regards the prevalence of crime not only with its present state but also with what then existed in the neighbouring district of Jalpaiguri. "The population," writes he in 1872-73, "is not much tempted to crime by want. In some places tigers and leopards hinder thieves from roaming abroad after dark, and in this respect act more efficiently than any Chaukidar. On the other hand, the absence of Zemidars, who settle many petty cases in the Zillahs, and the recent multiplication of the Sub-divisional Courts, tend to increase the number of criminal cases brought to light. We consequently find that the work to be performed by the Criminal Courts is now very considerable. The criminal work in Cooch Behar is more than double of what it is in Jalpaiguri, for in the latter district the number of Cognisable and non-cognisable cases reported in the past year including false ones was 1,018 against 2,224 in Cooch Behar. The number of persons brought to trial during the year under report has been 2,106 or 39 per cent. of the population. The number of convictions gives almost exactly one criminal conviction to each square mile." Condition of crimes in 1872-73.

Mr. Dalton in his Retrospect of the British Administration of Cooch Behar, written in the beginning of 1884, has the following on the condition of crimes in the State :— Retrospect of crimes during British administration.

"The earliest record we have of the number of dacoities in any one year is for 1865-66, when there were 12 cases. In 1867-68, there were 16 and in the following year 14. In 1869-70, there were seven and in 1870-71, five only. In the famine year of 1874-75 the number rose to 11.

"In the following year seven dacoities occurred; but during the year a patrol system was organised, and the returns for 1876-77 show one dacoity only. In 1881-82, there were four dacoities ; in 1882-83, two only. And of late years very few of the dacoities reported have been committed by organised gang of dacoits. Some of them can be mere technically called dacoities, being house-trespass committed by five or more persons but unaccompanied by any serious attempt at violence. Of serious offences against the person, cases of rape, kidnapping and adultery are the most common.

"Most of the murders which take place in Cooch Behar have their origin in domestic intrigue or connubial infidelity. It is very rarely that murder and robbery are found in conjunction.

"In short there is very little heavy crime in the State now, though it compared so unfavourably with Jalpaiguri when Mr. Smith wrote his report in 1873. The total number of cases of

all descriptions which occurred in 1882-83 approximate in a singular manner to the number reported exactly 10 years previous, the figures, being 2,224 for the former year, and 2,244 for the latter. Considering the increase in population and in the wealth of the people the result is most satisfactory, for, while it is quite certain that the number of petty crimes, which are brought to notice, must have increased considerably, that fact in itself proves that serious crime has been effectually repressed."

After the Installation.

After the Installation heavy crime gradually decreased. During the first five years, from 1883-84 to 1887-88, the number of dacoities was 18; in the next quinquennial period it came down to 14; and in the following period ending with 1897-98, it further decreased and stood at 11. Under the Police organization scheme the bordering Out-posts were abolished in that year. In the next two years alone 10 dacoities occurred, the number in 1899-1900, namely, eight, for exceeding that in any single previous year.

The total number of cases of all descriptions ranged between 2,000 and 4,000 a year from 1883-84 to 1887-88, between 2,300 and 2,800 from 1888-89 to 1892-93; and between 2,000 and 2,500 during the next quinquennial period. In 1898-99, it came up to 2500, and in the following year, to 2,575. The number of cases has not thus, on the whole, much increased.

Condition of Police before 1864.

Police.—One of the most important missions of the old Commissioners was the reform of the Police of the State. Owing to the opposition of Maharaja Harendranarayan this object could not be carried out satisfactorily by any of them, although Mr. Ahmuty established two Thanas in the interior. The state of the Police was all along an opprobrium of Cooch Behar. The pay of the Daroga was only Rs 7-8 a month, and a Burkundaz had to get only Rs 2-4; and the whole cost of the Police establishment did not exceed Rs 8,000 a year. Even these pittances were often not paid; for the old rule in Cooch Behar was that the Magistrate and his subordinates received no pay from the State but were supposed to pay themselves out of the fines and institution fees. If there was a surplus it was paid into the *Majudát* or Reserve Treasury; and if there was a deficiency the establishments were not paid. This system, strange as it was, worked very disastrously on the appellate Court, where there were very few fines or fees, and, as a consequence, the pay of its establishment was sometimes 12 or 13 years in arrears. In 1864, Colonel Haughton initiated the reform by appointing a Daroga for the Kotwali on Rs 100 a month.

The new Police was established in 1866 by Colonel Bruce. Captain Hedayat Ali was for some time in charge of the Police. In February that year Moulvie Anwarooj Zuman, an Inspector from the Bengal constabulary, was appointed at the head of the Cooch Behar Police. In the course of the next year the organisation of the new Police was in full force and appears to have been completed by the end of the year 1866-67.

Strength of the force.

The new force was composed of 1 Superintendent, 3 Inspectors, 8 Sub-Inspectors, 26 Head-Constables and 200 Constables. Excepting the Superintendent and the Inspectors, the pay of all ranks was the same as in the Bengal Police, and the cost was about Rs. 40,000 a year. The force was gradually strengthened by the addition of 3 Sub-Inspectors, 1 Head-Constable and 4 constables till 1873-74, from the beginning of which, however, considerable reductions were made, so that at the end of the year the strength stood at 1 Superintendent, 2 Inspectors, 6 Sub-Inspectors 21 Head-Constables, and 195 Constables, and the total cost of the department amounted to Rs. 32,000.

Reduction in 1873-74.

Result of reduction.

The consequence of this reduction was disastrous. For want of a sufficient number of Head-Constables, ordinary constables had to be employed in the investigation of important cases; almost all privilege leave had to be stopped, which created discontent amongst the men, and enabled the temporary constables to commit irregularities with impunity; and the Reserve was at so low an ebb that necessary escorts to remit treasure could not be supplied on more than one occasion. In fact the efficiency of the Police was greatly decreased.

Increase of force.

This state of affairs could not continue long. Accordingly in the following year a scheme was submitted for increasing the force, and opening one new Thana and two Out-Posts, which was sanctioned with effect from 1876-77, when the force came to be composed of, besides the Superintendent, 3 Inspectors, 8 Sub-Inspectors, 28 Head-Constables and 240 constables. The cost came up to about Rs. 34,000.

Assistant Superintendent of Police.

Additions and alterations in the above scale continued to be made from time to time. The post of an Assistant Superintendent was created in 1883, and at the end of 1883-84, the force came to be composed of 1 Superintendent, 1 Assistant Superintendent, 3 Inspectors, 10 Sub-Inspectors, 29 Head-Constables and 265 constables; and the annual cost in round numbers rose to about Rs. 47,000.

Changes in 1889-90.

In 1889-90, the post of the Assistant Superintendent was abolished; the grades of pay of the Inspectors were revised;

and a small Detective Department was established. The lower rank of the police was gradually strengthened, until in 1897-98 the number of constables came up to 284, and the cost of the total strength amounted to about Rs. 58,000.

Reorganisation of Police in 1897-98.

In that year a scheme for the reorganisation of the police on the lines adopted in Bengal was sanctioned by His Highness in Council. Under that scheme the five frontier Out-Posts of Kholta, Bhaishkhuchi, Sitai, Gitaldaha and Moranga were abolished, resulting in the reduction of investigating centres, and the number of Head-Constables; and provision was made for the investigation of all cases by Sub-Inspectors, as far as possible, and for the strengthening of the Reserve. By this the cost was slighlty brought down, and the strength stood as follows in 1899-1900 :—

Superintendent of Police	1
Inspectors	3
Sub-Inspectors	11
Head-Constables	24
Constables	262

Proportion of Police to area and population.

With an area of 1307 square miles, and a population of 5,78,868 souls, the State thus has almost 1 police to every 9·5 square miles of its extent, and 4225.3 souls of its population.

Municipal Police.

The town or Municipal Police was organised in 1885, with one Jemadar and 23 Chowkidars for the town of Cooch Behar, at a cost of Rs. 1,776. This has since expanded, and some of the muffasil towns, such as Haldibari, Mathabhanga and Dinhata, have got it. The Municipal Police is under the Superintendent of Police.

Old State of things.

Rural Police.—Up to the year 1875, there was nothing in the nature of a rural police or Chawkidars in Cooch Behar. The necessity for such a body hardly existed among the primitive people of the State who do not live in villages but in detached homesteads, over each of which the *Dewania* reigned as civil head of the community, and adjusted disputes among his relatives and dependants. But with the Land Revenue Settlement and the consequent greater security of hereditary rights, as people began to amass money and household property, and as they became more exposed to the depredations of petty malefactors, the want of a village watch, which in Rangpur and Jalpaiguri had long been established, came to be more and more felt. This was brought to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner in 1876 by some petitions, which began to come in from the chief inhabitants of

a few Taluks praying for investing the chowkidars, to be nominated and paid by them, with police functions and a badge as the symbol of office. This prayer was granted and other Taluks followed suit year after year ; the body increased until in 1882-83 there were 1,576 chowkidars in the State. But the novelty having worn off the men of the force were no longer able to realise their pay according to the list of subscriptions volunteered as easily as in the beginning, and it was proposed to pass an Act to place the villages under a regular contribution according to the valuation of their holdings. The Cooch Behar Village Chowkidari Act (Act III of 1893) was passed in 1893-94. The number of Chowkidars in the State came up to 1,577 at the end of 1899-1900.

Thanas and Out-Posts.—In 1864, there were five Thanas and four *Faris* or Out-posts in the State as noted below :— In 1854.

THANAS.—1 Kotwali, 2 Dinhata, 3 Mekligunj, 4 Giladanga, 5 Bhabanigunj.

PHARIS OR OUT-POSTS.—1 Syamgunj, 2 Changrabanda, 3 Shingimari, 4 Khagribari.

Changes of sites of Thanas and Out-posts.

Formerly the chief point considered in connection with the site for a Police Station or Out-post was that it should be near some Bhutia stockade or village with a view to guard against Bhutia aggressions. Hence most of the Out-posts were put close to the Duars. As this was no longer necessary two of the stations, namely, Bhabanigunj and Giladanga, were removed from their old sites in 1865-66. Bhabanigunj, which occupied the present site of Alipur Duars, was removed to Tufangunj, and Giladanga to Mathabhanga, both on the high road from Dhubri to Jalpaiguri. In 1866-67, the Out-posts of Bilshi and Singimari were, owing to their unhealthy position, removed to Jamaldaha and Bhaishkhuchi, respectively. The Out-post of Khagribari was of no use in its old place, and was removed to Shitalkhuchi near the borders of Rangpur.

Their number in 1876-77.

In the course of the next decade several Out-posts and one Thana were established, so that at the end of 1876-77 the undermentioned Stations and Out-posts were in existence :—

Stations.	*Out-posts.*
Kotwali.	Kholta.
Tufangunj,	Bhaishkhuchi.
(afterwards called	Keshoribari.
Fulbari.)	Shitalkhuchi.
Dinhata.	Ksheti. (Moranga)
Mathabhanga.	Kotebhajni.
Mekhligunj.	Haldibari.

Conversion and abolition.

After the opening of the Railway Station at Haldibari, and with the development of traffic, the Outpost at Haldibari was converted into a Thana in 1878. The Out-post at Khesoribari was removed to Shitai, and two more Out-posts were opened, one at Balarampur and the other at Gitaldaha, before 1885-86. The Out-post at Shitalkhuchi was raised to the status of a Police station in 1893-94.

In 1896-97, on the creation of the Tufangunj sub-division, the Out-posts at Balarampur and Kotebhajni were abolished, to find additional force for the new sub-division.

By the reorganization of the Police in 1897-98, all the remaining Out-posts were abolished. From that time the Thanas and Out-posts have been limited to their present number, namely, the five stations of Kotwali, Fulbari, Dinhata, Mathabhanga and Mekhligunj, and the independent Out-post of Shitalkhuchi.

Thánd or Zemindari Dák.—Formerly there was no Thana or Zemindari Dak in the State. In 1864, Colonel Haughton introduced one. This was gradually replaced by the Government Postal system, which, as it spread over the country, made the keeping up of a separate establishment of its own by the State quite unnecessary. The last lines of the Zemindary Dak, namely, one from Cooch Behar to Bhaishkhuchi, and the second from Dinhata to Shitai were abolished in 1899, and converted into Imperial lines.

Jail in old times.

Cooch Behar Jail.—A Jail for the custody of prisoners had been in existence from a very old time. Formerly it was divided into two distinct departments, Civil and Criminal. The Civil Jail was entirely under the Dewani Ahilkar, and the Magistrate had no control over it. When the Commissioner took charge of the State the number of prisoners in the Civil Jail was abnormally large. This was due to the old practice of bringing up the defendants on warrants on the filing of the plaint, and of demanding security from them, and commmitting them to Jail on their inability to furnish the same. In the beginning of 1866, the Commissioner required the Civil Courts to conform to the provision of Act VIII of 1859 as much as possible, and the practice of imprisoning defendants on the institution of suits was abolished.

Feeding of prisoners.

In the time of the old Maharajas the prisoners used to go out and purchase their own food from the bazar. The ordinary prisoners received in cash one anna and six pies and the life convicts two annas per head for the price of their ration. When

Colonel Haughton came this practice was put a stop to and the convicts were fed in the Jail as at present. The scale of diet in vogue in the Bengal Jails was not, however, introduced till 1867.

Different sites of the Jail.

The old Jail having fallen out of repair a new *kutcha* one was built to the south of the Sagardighi in 1864. Although an improvement upon the old one, it was far from being a good Jail. The situation of the Jail in the middle of the town was found inconvenient, and it was also most insecure. A new *kutcha* Jail was accordingly built on a site to the east of the town in 1865. That is the place where the Jail stands at the present time. The new Jail was occupied in June 1866. It had a bamboo *chekar* for the outside wall.

In 1874, a proposal for the building of a *pucca* wall for the Jail was sanctioned. The Deputy Commissioner was for making the buildings *pucca* before constructing a masonry wall. The idea of making the wards of masonry had, however, to be given up on sanitary grounds, and only the guard-house, the office, and the godown were built of masonry. A brick-wall was constructed around the Jail with prison labour ; it was completed in 1879-80.

A tank inside the Jail was completed with jail-labour in 1869-70. This tank supplied good water to the prisoners.

Jail manufacture.

There was no manufactory in the Jail previous to 1866, when the making of paper was introduced as a Jail manufacture, and a number of old criminal records was made over for the purpose. Hitherto the convicts had been employed in making roads and clearing jungles in the town, both of which were great necessities of the times.

Paper-making does not appear to have been a success. In subsequent years further branches of manufacture were introduced. In 1869-70, eight selected prisoners were placed in the Artizan's School to learn weaving, carpentry, pottery, smith's work, etc. A class was also opened in the Jail for teaching the convicts to read and write.

" The principal branches of manufacture," writes Mr. Dalton in 1875-76, "on which the prisoners were employed (last year) are carpentry, twine-making, weaving, mat-making, making of bamboo chairs, *moras* and *chawkis* etc., and *sataranch*-making. The last, that is, *sataranch*-making was introduced in September last and I am glad to observe that 10 men have already mastered the work. There is also a black-smith's shop in the Jail managed by prisoners. Grinding flour, baking bread, and working the oil-mill also found employment for a number of prisoners." The articles turned out by the Jail were sometimes of a very good

quality. Brick-making was one of the chief manufactures in the Jail from 1876-77 to 1885-86. A bakery was opened in 1874, and very good bread used to be prepared in the Jail. As, however, it was not paying it was stopped in April 1893. Coarse gunny, flour, oils and articles of carpentry are the chief among the Jail manufactures of the present day.

Jail garden.

A Jail garden was opened in 1868, and gave employment to those prisoners who were unfit for hard labour.

Mark-system.

The Mark-system for the regulation of the conduct of the convicts was introduced in 1873.

The Jail Code of Bengal is followed in the management of the Jail and Lock-ups in the State.

Jail Officer.

The Fauzdari Ahilkar is in charge of the Jail, and is assisted by a Jailor and one Assistant Jailor.

The warders watch the prisoners when on duty. The Jail is under guards supplied by the Police.

Jail statistics.

The figures given below will furnish some prison statistics for the Cooch Behar Jail during the last quarter of a century:—

Year.	No. of convicts.	No. of deaths.	Amount of total earning.	Amount of total cost.	Gross cost per prisoner.	Net cost per prisoner.
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.
1875-76 ...	826	18	7,449	15,224	74 15 0	49 5 2
1879-80 ...	877	21	7,888	16,682	87 5 5	57 2 2
1885-86 ...	589	7	5,021	13,842	86 8 2	64 15 4
1889-90 ...	496	...	4,187	9,035	122 6 9	83 10 6
1895 96 ...	482	2	3,602	13,809	142 4 6	105 2 9
1899-1900...	406	1	3898,	11,221	111 15 8	72 7 0

The figures establish three important points: First, that the number of convicts has gradually but very markedly decreased ; secondly, that the health of the jail has been very largely improved ; and thirdly, that the actual cost per prisoner has increased. The increase of cost per prisoner is chiefly due to the falling off in admissions.

Cooch Behar Jail exceptionally healthy.

The Cooch Behar Jail is remarkable for its healthiness Sir Steuart Bayley, Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, who visited Cooch Behar in 1889, was pleased to remark "that the prisoners seemed to be well fed and properly cared for."

Lifers sent to the Andamans

Prisoners under transportation for life from Cooch Behar are, under an arrangement with Government, sent to Port Blair in the Andamans, where they are maintained at the cost of the State.

Lock-ups.—The first Lock-up opened in the State was at Dinhata on the transfer of the Tufangunj Sub-divisional office to that place in 1870. With the opening of the four additional

Sub-divisions, the head-quarters of three of which were in the muffasil, the number of Lock-ups was increased from 1 to 4 in 1872. This was, however, reduced to 3 in the following year with the abolition of two of the Sub-divisions. The Lock-ups thus retained in 1873, namely, those at Dinhata, Mathabhanga and Mekhligunj, do still exist. A fourth was opened at Fulbari in 1896, on the establishment of the new Tufangunj Sub-division.

Lock up premises.

In the beginning there were no separate buildings for the Lock-ups, and the prisoners used to be kept in the Thana buildings. Subsequently regular Lock-ups were built with the Thana guard-house in their front, and a high bamboo wall covering the remaining sides. The Lock-ups have separate cells for male and female prisoners. There is, however, no accomodation for separating the under-trial prisoners from the Civil prisoners. There are no arrangements for segregation of prisoners, and no work-shop.

Prisoners sentenced to 15 days' imprisonment and under are confined in the Lock-ups.

The number of admissions in the Lock-ups was 379 in 1873-74, which gradually rose and came up to 461 in 1883-84. Subsequently it went on decreasing till in 1895-96, the year previous to the opening of the new Tufangunj sub-division, it stood at 384. In 1897-98, the admissions in the four Lock-ups ran up to 576, but afterwards came down to 456 in 1899-1900.

The cost of maintaining prisoners in the Lock-ups amounted to Rs. 41-5-1 per head per annum in 1873-74. It came down to Rs. 34-1-10 by 1883-84, but rose to Rs. 57-3-9 in 1897-99. The year 1899-1900 showed a further increase to Rs. 84-11-11. As in the case of the Jail, the falling off in admissions mostly served to raise the average cost of maintenance of the population of the Lock-ups.

The Lock-ups are under the management of the Sub-divisional officers. The Sub-divisional Accountant is the *ex-officio* jailor, and and is assisted by one warder. The guard is furnished by the Police, and consists of four constables under a Head-constable.

Management. As already noticed all these branches of the General Department are under the immediate control of the Fauzdari Ahilkar, who is the District Magistrate. He is assisted in the administration of Criminal Justice by the Superintendent of Police and the Naib Ahilkars, the latter being Executive and Judicial officers like the Deputy Magistrates of British India. The Naib Ahilkars are in charge of the Sub-divisions, and have also Civil and Revenue jurisdiction. In 1886, the last grade of the State Judicial and Executive Service was created by the

appointment of Sub-Naib Ahilkars, whose status is that of the Sub-Deputy Magistrates and Collectors of Bengal, for the assistance of the Naib Ahilkars. Besides the Sudder, one Sub-Naib Ahilkar is posted to each of the two heavy Sub-divisions of Dinhata and Mathabhanga.

Fauzdary Ahilkar.—Babu Ramchandra Chatterji, was the Fauzdari Ahilkar when the British Government took charge of the State in 1864. He retired in 1865-66. After a temporary arrangement of two years, during which Moulvie Anwarooz Jaman, Superintendent of Police, was also in charge of the Fauzdari Ahilkra's office, Babu (now Rai Bahadur) Jadavchandra Chakravarti, an officer lent by Government, was appointed Fauzdari Ahilkar, and joined his duties on the 1st April 1869. He continued the head of the department for a long time, and "earned the confidence of the Maharaja, and of the people over whom he exercised authority." After his promotion to the post of the Civil Judge in 1886, Babu Priyanath Datta, M. A. B. L., then Manager of the Chaklajat Estates, held the post of the Fauzdari Ahilkar for above 12 years, till he was promoted to the post of the Civil and Sessions Judge on the 1st August 1898. Babu Haridas Mukherjee, M.A., B.L., was appointed to succeed him, but could not be relieved of the charge of the Chaklajat Manager's office until June 1900; temporary arrangements were made for the discharge of the duties of the post during the period.

Superintendent of Police.—The first Superintendent of Police was Moulive Anwarooz Jaman, an Inspector of Bengal Police, who was appointed in February 1866. He was permanently succeeded by Babu Satyacharan Mukherjee, also a Police Inspector of Bengal, in December 1872. After service of 16 years he reverted to Government service in September 1888, when Mr. C. E. Briscoe held charge for a few months only. Babu Parvaticharan Chakravarti, first grade Inspector, was promoted to the post in December of that year, and was after his death succeeded in January 1893, by Mr. C. E. Briscoe, whose services were lent by the Government of Bengal for two years. The present Superintendent Kumar Gojendranarayan Jr, M. R. A. C., took charge of the Police on the 4th February 1895.

(2) EDUCATION.

Education in old times.

Formerly, the Maharajas of Cooch Behar encouraged only Sanskrit learning and endowed Sanskrit *toles* and supported the Pundits. In the ruling family Persian used to be carefully taught, and some of the old Maharajas, pre-eminently among them Harendranarayan, were good Persian scholars. What the state of popular

education was cannot be ascertained; the State held out but little encouragement to it. Establishment of Vernacular School.

During the minority of Maharaja Narendranarayan Bhup Bahadur, a Vernacular School was started in the town of Cooch Behar, in 1857, for the education of the Maharaja's kinsmen; and from that time may be said to have been sown the seed of popular learning in the country. An English School soon followed. In recognition of the services rendered to the State during his minority, Maharaja Narendranarayan presented a purse to Colonel Jenkins, the Governor-General's Agent in the North-East Frontier. The worthy Colonel, however, advised the Maharaja to found an English School with the money thus offered to him, and accordingly an English School was established in 1861, which was named 'Jenkins School', after Colonel Jenkins. In the beginning it taught up to the third class standard of the entrance curriculum, and it was ten years after in 1870 that the first batch of three boys passed the Entrance Examination from it. The Jenkins School.

Some efforts for the education of the people in general seems also to have been made in the reign of Maharaja Narendranarayan. In 1864, three Vernacular Schools were opened in the interior under the orders of Colonel Haughton, which were placed under the direct management of the State, and Babu Ramchandra Ghosh, a high State official, was appointed Honourary Inspector of Schools. To afford facilities for the education of the Maharaja's relations, a Boarding Institution was established at this time in the town of Cooch Behar, where the kinsmen of His Highness obtained education free of all charges. Boarding Institution.

In 1865, however, the Honorary Inspector of Schools resigned his duties into the hands of a Local Committee of Public Instruction, to be periodically assisted by the Government Inspector of Schools of the North-East Division. The Committee had under its control a local Deputy Inspector of Schools, who visited the interior and assisted in the spread of popular education. During the five years that followed education progressed considerably. Three boys from the Jenkins School, out of five candidates, passed the Entrance Examination for the first time in the State, all of whom were awarded scholarships by the Commissioner. A training class was opened in connection with the Vernacular School. The number of village* schools came up to 58, aided and unaided, including 5 Girls' Schools with a strength of 130 pupils, one Persian Madrassa, and 3 Sanskrit *toles*. Committee of Public Instruction and state of education from 1865 to 1870.

* Aided 37
Unaided 21

The total expenditure on Education came up from Rs. 7,022 in 1865 to Rs. 29,515 in 1870, of which Rs. 2,884 was contributed by the people in the shape of subscriptions.

Creation of the post of Supdt. of Education.

With the gradual spread of schools in the interior and the continued development of the more important institutions in the town, it was found difficult for the members of the Local Committee either to master or to properly attend to the details of a business so widely different from their own; and accordingly a separate Superintendentship for the Educational Department was created in 1870 "to advise in all matters connected with Education, to inspect and examine the schools and to deliver occasional lectures." In August of that year, the Rev. R. Robinson was appointed Superintendent of Education in the State; but he left the post in October following, and Babu Kasikanth Mukherji of the Bengal Educational Service succeeded him in September 1871.

Condition of education between 1870 and 1879.

From this time forward the works of the deparment began to be carried on systematically on the lines matured by celebrated educationists for Bengal, and year after year liberal grants continued to be given for extending the scope and sphere of education in the State. A Guru-Training School was established in February 1873; and a Normal School, a portion of which had existed since 1870, was formally opened in 1875 with the full complement of classes, masters and stipends. Under the auspices of these two institutions, a complete net-work of schools and Patshalas very shortly covered the State from one end to another. For their proper supervision, the Superintendent's office was strengthened, and one more Deputy Inspector of Schools, one Sub-Inspctor, and 4 Inspceting Pundits were gradually appointed from 1876 to 1878. For the education of the near relations of His Highness, an Wards Institution was opened at Krishnagur in 1877, and liberal provision made for the education of 12 Rajgan boys in the Collegiate School there. The rapid progress of education in the State from 1871 to 1879 and the increase of expenditure are shewn in the following table:—

		Year.		
		1871-72	1875-76.	1879-80.
Description of Schools.	State ...	4	7	6
	Aided ...	49	177	289
	Unaided ...	29	98	95
	Total ...	82	282	390
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Amount of expenditure.	State ...	22,233	42,591	60,685
	Private ...	6,273	22,357	33,213
	Total ...	28,506	64,948	93,898

Change of education policy.

The principle and methods under which the education of the country was being carried on at this time met with approval from Messrs. Clark and Bellet, Inspectors of Schools in Bengal. Succes-

sive Commissioners and Lieutenant-Governors also praised them. Most of the native youths, who are now found earning their livelihood by service in the various departments of the State, were the outcome of the schools of this period, and but for the exception taken to the liberal conditions under which money for all this was given, there appeared nothing more left to be desired. After 1879, however, the Educational Returns began to be marked by reductions and fluctuations, a policy which had begun to be formulated from 1878, as will appear from the remarks of the Deputy Commissioner of Cooch Behar in the Annual Report for the year 1877-78 :—

"The year under report is in one respect an important one in the history of educational progress in Cooch Behar. Up to the present time the State contribution towards the cost of mass-education has increased yearly in proportion to the increase in the number of schools and the percentage of school-going population. But when the Budget for 1877-78 was submitted for Government sanction, the Lieutenant-Governor took occasion to say that he considered that the limit to which the State revenues ought to be made liable for educational progress had now been reached. Briefly, it was considered time to test the power of self-expansion which the department might or might not possess."

From that time forth the principle acted on was to gradually withdraw aid from schools which had given proof of sufficient innate vitality and to use the grants so withdrawn to open new schools in less favoured localities.

In 1879, when the highest figures were reached, a reduction of 10 per. cent. was made, as an experiment, on the amount previously allotted to grants-in-aid.

Temporary bad effect.

In this stage of transition Babu Kasikanth Mukherjee, Superintendent of Education, was taken ill, and died in August 1880. His successor, Babu Umacharan Dass, was not appointed till December following. For over 6 months the current works of the Department were done by Babu Bireswar Palit, Assistant Surgeon, who had other heavy duties to attend to. Mr. Dalton, who was Deputy Commissioner of Cooch Behar for a long time, also left for England at this juncture. The simultaneous operation of these and other causes, the chief of which, however, were (1) the limitation of the allotment for grant-in-aid under orders of the Lieutenant-Governor, (2) the practice of revising and lowering State grant to schools year after year, and (3) the enforcement of the conditions for the payment of local subscriptions, had a bad effect on the cause of education.

A very marked decrease in the number of schools, that of their strength and attendance, and the amount of local subscriptions, therefore, characterised the returns for 1880. The number of schools came down from 390 to 324, and private subscriptions, from Rs. 33,213 to Rs. 22,274.

These decreases, specially, the administration of the grant-in-aid fund, formed the subject of special correspondence between the Cooch Behar authorities and the Government of Bengal, and Babu Brahma Mohan Mallick, Assistant Inspector of Schools of the Burdwan Division, was deputed to enquire into and report on the state of education in Cooch Behar with special reference to the grant-in-aid system.

Report of Babu Brahma Mohan Mallik.

After a sifting enquiry made for 2 months Babu Brahma Mohan Mallik submitted his report in May 1883, in para 22 of which he thus summed up:—"It will now be quite clear that the so-called collapse of the grant-in-aid system in Cooch Behar is actually not at all so serious as it has seemed to be; that the statistical tables which have exhibited falling off and fluctuations in the number of schools are explicable on sufficient grounds; and that although the Cooch Behar rules stand in urgent need of improvement, there can be no doubt that their operation, such as it has been, has brought into existence many schools and enabled a large number of boys to obtain useful instruction. There was no effort wanting to bring education to the door of every one willing to avail himself of it. After all the enquiry I have been able to make into the educational operations of Cooch Behar, I have become convinced that no sweeping reform or radical change of policy is wanted there."

After the Installation.

In 1883-84, the year of Installation, the number of schools was 283 and the total expenditure on Education amounted to Rs. 76,416, of which Rs. 18,020 was obtained from private subscriptions. In the course of the next four years, partly with the curtailment of expenditure by the abolition of the Guru-Training school and reduction of the number of inspecting officers, and partly with a small increase in the State grant, the number of schools gradually rose to 327 in 1887-88. The total expenditure on education came up to Rs. 81,144 in that year.

Changes with the establishment of Victoria College.

The departmental works proceeded thus till June 1888, when to commemorate the Jubilee of Her Majesty the late Queen-Empress, the Victoria College was established in Cooch Behar. A sum of about Rs. 25,000 was granted for the initial cost of house, furniture, books and apparatus, and sufficient provisions

were made to meet the regular charges for establishment, library and scholarships. But under the principle that the yearly normal grant for education should not be increased, the allotments for Primary and Secondary Education had to be heavily curtailed, the post of the Superintendent of Education abolished, the Normal School done away with, a large number of Village Schools and Patshalas either reduced or abolished, and the assignment for scholarships and stipends made much smaller.

The College with the Jenkins' School and the Boarding Institutions was placed under the control of the Principal. The Primary and the Secondary schools were made over to the Inspector of Schools, whose office was created at this time, and the Library went under the direct control of the Superintendent of the State, who, with the newly created Education office, took upon himself the direct management of the Department of Public Instruction in the State.

Establishment of Entrance Schools in the Sub-divisions.

An important point in the history of Education in the State during this period was the establishment of Entrance Schools in the Sub-divisions in July 1890. It was effected by raising about Rs. 25,000 as subscriptions from the people of Mekhligunj, Mathabhanga and Dinhata, and by allowing to each school a monthly grant of Rs. 125 from the State. The increased grant was, however, no additional charge on the State, but was found by effecting savings from the existing schools.

Condition of Education in 1890.

Hitherto the Jenkins School in the town of Cooch Behar was the only High English School in the State, and it had grown into a large and useful institution during the last 30 years. The number of pupils on its roll had risen from 70 in 1864 to over 500 in 1890, and about 30 per cent. of them were natives of the State. The school was originally a free one and a nominal fee of 8 annas was gradually levied all round. But even then the number of free-students in the school was so large that the annual collection did not come up to more than Rs. 400 in 1871, when the system of graduated scale of fees was introduced. The rates continued to be enhanced from time to time and in 1890 the collections came up to Rs. 5,000 against a gross yearly expenditure of Rs. 9,500. In the Entrance examinations of the Calcutta University the school had passed 114 boys upto 1890, and of these 15 were natives of the State.

The Jenkins schools.

A beautiful and commodious building was constructed for the school on the east of the Sagardighi Square in 1879 at a cost of Rs. 45,000, and additional houses and masters were unsparingly added as occasions rose for them. The Sub-divisional

schools were raised in status to afford additional facilities to the native youths for higher education. Of the 700 pupils that availed themselves of the facilities in the 4 schools in 1890 over 250 were natives of the State.

The Victoria College.

As already noticed, the Victoria College was established in June 1888. Though it opened with only 16 students the number rose quickly, and at the end of 1890 there were 124 students on its roll, of whom 6 were natives of the State. A Boarding Institution was opened in connection with it for the accomodation of the College students, and steps were taken to encourage native youths also to live in either the College, or in the Rajgan Boarding. Education was free in the College, and a succession of European Principals and good professors soon made it an attractive and useful Institution, and within 3 years it passed 49 students in the F. A. and 22 in the B. A. Examination of the Calcutta University.

Separation of the grant for Primary from that for High education.

The appointment of Mr. E. E. Lowis of the Bengal Civil Service as Superintendent of the State in 1891 marked a new era in the educational history of the State. On his recommendation the Budget for Primary Education was made separate from that for High Education, and a set of rules framed for improved organisation and smooth work. Both the branches of the Department, Higher and Primary, continued to henceforth make steady progress hand in hand. In the Annual Report for 1894-95, Mr. Lowis thus summed up what had hitherto been done :—

"The efforts of the departmental officers were directed during the year not so much to extend the area of Primary Education as to systematise it and to secure the best possible results for the public money expended. These results compare favourably with those previously achieved by a far larger staff of inspecting officers and by an expenditure of public money more than double of what is now given. The following figures will explain matters more fully :—

	Year.	
	1887-88.	1894-95.
Actual net cost of the State	67,016	28,435
Inspection charges	11,911	5,909
Schools	327	311
Scholars	10,242	10,565"

Mr. Lowis was convinced that the allotment to Primary Education was rather inadequate for its further extension, and he therefore suggested, at the time of his retirement from the State service, the abolition of the Model Schools in the interior, and with the money thus set free the opening of new Patshalas, strengthening of the inspecting staff, and the founding of special scholarships for the better education of the native youths. Both Mr. D. R. Lyall, who succeded Mr. Lowis as Superintendent of the State, and the Dewan of Cooch Behar discussed Mr. Lowis's note in the State Council, and resolved that the abolition of all the Model Schools so suddenly would be rather premature. His Highness's sanction was, however, obtained for the abolition of one of the Model Schools and the revision of the establishment of seven others to find money for the benefit of Primary Education. In the meantime His Highness was graciously pleased, on the strong representation of Mr. Lyall and the Dewan of Cooch Behar, to sanction from the beginning of 1898 an additional sum of Rs. 1,000 for Primary Education.

On the discovery of certain irregularities in the accounts of the Jenkins School in 1895, the Superintendent of the State thenceforth insisted on an elaborate system of accounts from all State Schools, English as well as Vernacular, and rigorously enforced the remittance of all fee-collections to the Treasury month after month. Under orders of the State Council, the number of free students in the Jenkins' School was reduced in 1896, and this, coupled with other causes, brought down the strength of this institution to 257 in 1897, and the fee-collections to about Rs. 4,300. But inspite of all this the school has progressed satisfactorily under the close supervision of the Principal and the management of the Head Master, and the results of the Entrance Examination have all along been good.

Development of the College

The Victoria College also has gradually risen in strength and efficiency. It counted 168 pupils on its roll in 1900 and of them 9 were natives of the State. Within the last 9 years it turned out 199 Under-graduates, 73 B. As, 4 M. As, and 19 B. Ls. The College has been fortunate, in securing for its Principal, Babu Brajendra Nath Seal, M.A., of whose vast erudition all Bengal is proud. The College building was seriously injured by the terrible earthquake of 1897, and temporary accomodation was provided for it, pending the erection of a suitable house for which a sum has since been sanctioned by His Highness in Council.

The following table shows the progress of education in the State from 1892 to 1900:—

YEAR.	*Nature of Schools.*						*Amount of Expenditure.*				
	High Edctn.	PRIMARY AND SECONDARY.				Grand total.	High Edctn.	PRIMARY AND SECONDARY.			Grand total.
	State.	State.	Aided.	Un-aided.	Total.		State.	State.	Private.	Total.	
							Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1892-93 ...	5	13	199	79	291	296	28,495	28,368	15,832	44,200	72,695
1895-96 ...	5	13	202	97	312	317	29,528	28,427	18,212	46,639	76,167
1897-98 ...	5	12	206	92	310	315	31,238	28,195	18,236	46,431	77,669
1899-1900 ...	5	12	230	110	352	357	33,905	29,805	19,819	49,624	83,529

Expansion of education.

It will appear from the foregoing summary that under the kind patronage of His Highness and the care of the authorities the Department of Public Instruction in Cooch Behar has been making steady and satisfactory progress year after year and all sense of alarm and insecurity has now been altogether removed. Cooch Behar has now a first grade College, 4 Higher English Schools, 39 Middle English and Middle Vernacular Schools, 6 Sanskrit *Toles*, 5 Persian Schools, one Nagri School, about 245 Patshalas, 44 Night Schools and 15 girls Schools. These are diffusing education in various forms not only amongst the different classes of His Highness' subjects, but also among a large number of youths from Bengal. What is still more to be congratulated on is the fact that in spite of the diversion of about Rs. 25,000 from the ordinary Education grant to the support of the College, the figures for 1879 have now, under improved organisation and well applied methods, been more than recovered, as shown below, and signs of further development are evident on all sides:—

		YEAR.	
		1879	1900
Schools ...	... ...	390	353
Pupils ...	... ...	11630	11,740
		Rs	Rs
Expenditure.	State	60,685	63,710
	Local	33,213	19,819
	Total ...	93,898	83,529

Education of the natives.

In fact it may now be safely asserted that there is no corner of the State in which the school master has not been out, or the candle of learning has not been burnt at one end or the other.

Of the natives of the State, one is a Barrister-at-law, one a graduate of the Cirencester College, England, one a member of the Uncovenanted Medical Service, one a Master of Arts, and one a Law-graduate. The number of under-graduates, Pleaders, Muktears, Native Doctors and ordinary surveyors and amlas can now be counted by scores.

Superintendents of Education.—The successive Superintendents of Education were the Rev. R. Robinson (1870-1871); Babu Kashi Kantha Mukherji (1871-1880); Babu Uma Charan Das (1881-1883); and Babu Kalidas Bagchi (1883-1888).

Principals of the Victoria College.—The first Principal of the Victoria College was Mr. J. C. Godley, M.A. He was succeeded by Mr. W. H. Wood, B.A., F.C.S., in December 1889, who made over charge to Mr. C. F. Dela Fosse, B.A., in July 1892. The latter resigned in February 1896, after which the present incumbent Babu Brajendra Nath Seal, M.A., was appointed Principal and joined his duties on the 25th March of that year.

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(3) Public Works Department.

Old departments of Public Works.

Formerly, in the time of the old Maharajas, the Public Works of the State were under four separate departments. These were :—

1. Roads.

2. *Imárat Kháná*, which covered masonry buildings used for secular purposes.

3. *Chhát Imárat Kháná* concerned with masonry buildings used for religious purposes.

4. *Bakhsikháná*, which comprised all kinds of *Kucha* buildings.

Amalgamation

All these four departments were originally under the late Babu Ratideva Bakshi. In 1864, the departments of *Imáratkháná* and *Chhát Imáratkháná* were amalgamated and placed under Babu Govinda Chandra Ray, the Road Overseer. During 1867, all the departments were brought together, and Babu Govinda Chandra was placed at the head of the new department. The duties of Babu Ratideva Bakshi were confined to the *kucha* houses of the Palace only, and to the special works for which he held a Jaigir.

Henceforth the works had only two main sub-heads, namely, Roads, and Buildings. A short notice of each is given below :—

A.—Communication.

Length of roads and their condition in 1864.

Roads.—Before Colonel Haughton's arrival there were only three roads of a total length of 41 miles in the State. All of them commenced from the town of Cooch Behar. The first led

to the Baneswar temple and was 7 miles long; the second to Balarampur with a length of 10 miles; and the third and longest, to Moghal Hat, covering a distance of 24 miles. There were only three *puccá* bridges but none of any importance. There was also a sort of road to Jalpaiguri; but this was out of repairs and became impassable during the rains. The following lines from Mr. Dalton's Retrospect give a vivid account of the condition of these roads: "The State was literally destitute of good roads for even cart-traffic when the Government assumed charge. Fair weather roads existed; they were transected every few miles by rivers or water-courses which were unbridged and often lay through plains of rice cultivation which in the rainy season were impassable. Of course the rivers themselves formed an outlet for the trade of the country, but internal communication was tedious and difficult."

Activity in construction of roads.

The period of great road-making activity during the British administration was from 1865 to 1876, by the end of which 97 miles of main lines of roads with straight, high and broad embankments come into existence. The construction of these roads was a necessity of the times, having received an impetus from the Bhutan war. Even at the present day these roads are the best that the State possesses.

Opening of feeder-roads.

The feeder and cross roads mainly owe their origin to the opening of the Northern Bengal Railway lines. A regular system of feeder roads was designed and carried out at the opening of the Haldibari Station on the Northern Section, and again at the opening of the Moghal Hát Station on the Dhubri Section, of the Eastern Bengal State Railway, with a view to connect both the places with the principal marts of the State. Some roads were also opened for improving inland communication, and opening up the backward parts of the country.

The village roads already in existence were in a neglected state up to the year 1876. Attention was subsequently drawn to their importance as feeders to the main lines, and provision was made from the next year to keep them up in a passable order.

To summarise, the mileage of road in existence in the country in 1864 was 41; it came up to 151 at the end of 1876, and sprang up to 284½ in 1882-83, the last year of the British administration of the State. The main lines had, however, been constructed before 1876, and the increased mileage of 1882-83 represented the length of the feeder and cross roads which had come into existence in the course of the next six years.

Originally the roads had either no bridges or only bamboo bridges. The scheme of supplying good bridges was taken up by

the early British administrators, but its consummation was obtained during the last six or seven years of the British management. Thus in 1875 the number of running feet in bridges excluding triangular culverts was 564 only; whereas the total length of pile bridges came up to 9,321 in 1882-83, showing an increase of about eighteen times in the course of seven years.

After the Installation.

During the decade which followed the Installation, an addition of 56 miles was made to the length of the roads then existing, of which, however, 33 miles had been simply embanked without bridges. The impetus given to the opening of communication during the last year of British administration had evidently gradually slackened. The average of the expenditure on roads for 8 years previous to 1893-94 was Rs. 27,733 a year, that for the corresponding period before the Installation having been Rs. 85,510. Cooch Behar, however, had already possessed a net-work of good lines of road, and the necessity for their extension had not been urgently felt.

Starting of Communication Improvement Fund.

Another epoch of the great development of feeder roads followed the creation of the Communication Improvement Fund, consequent on the opening of the Cooch Behar State Railway, being an extension of the Moghal Hât line of the railway to the town of Cooch Behar. To secure traffic for the Cooch Behar State Railway an exhaustive scheme of opening feeder roads throughout the State and improving the existing tracks and roads, leading to the stations along the line, was sanctioned in 1892-93. A fund was created, with effect from 1893-94, under the name of the "Communication Improvement Fund," with an annual State grant of Rs. 50,000, supplemented by the imposition of a cess, called the Communication Improvement cess, on Mokarari and Lakheraj holdings, which was estimated to bring in a sum of about Rs. 1,500 a year. From 1893-94 to 1896-97, the Fund worked well, till the great earthquake of 1897. This earthquake caused heavy loss to the State by damaging the roads, bridges and buildings alike, the extent of which was roughly calculated at about fifteen lacs of rupees. The grant on original works in roads had thus to be diverted to the charges of repairs, and all orignial works came almost to a standstill. In the course of the four years preceding 1897, however, the additions to the communications stood thus :—

New roads opened ...	... 136½ miles
Wooden bridges, 5 ...	... 671 R. ft.
Pucca bridges, 12 ...	... 298 R. ft.

Roads at the present time.

At the end of 1898-99 there were 5 miles of metalled and 376½ miles of unmetalled road, and 187 miles of village road in the State. The first two contained 262 wooden, screw-piled or masonry bridges, with a length of 11,739 running feet, and the village-roads, 28 bridges 450 feet long.

Railway.—The want of easy communication with other parts of Bengal had been experienced for a long time. The proclamation issued by His Highness the Maharaja Bhup Bahadur to his subjects after his Installation was concluded with the following important announcement :—

"Being anxious to connect our capital with the Railway system of Bengal we contemplate measures for the construction of a Railway to Gitaldaha."

The scheme of connecting Cooch Behar with the Railway by a line to Maghal Hat, the terminus of the Kaunia and Dhubri line, was first taken in hand in January 1883, when Major Engledue, the then chief Engineer of the Northern Bengal State Railway, inspected the line under the orders of Government, and an estimate for a 2½ feet gauge Railway over the existing road was prepared in his office and submitted to Government for sanction. In anticipation of sanction to the above estimate, an embankment from the Sunity bridge at the Kalighat on the Torsa to the corner of the Jail road, as recommended by Major Engledue, was constructed. After the Installation His Highness in Council decided to have the work finished, and the earth-work in raising the old road was commenced. After a good progress had been made Mr. Furnival, the Agent of the Bengal Central Railway, was asked to give his professional opinion on the scheme. On the report of this gentleman in January 1884 the idea of a narrow gauge Railway on the old road was abandoned, and it was decided that a metre gauge line on a new embankment should be made. The survey was accordingly commenced but never finished, as on a reconsideration of the whole question shortly after, the scheme was indefinitely postponed.

The difficulties which appeared to stand in the way of the construction of a railway to Cooch Behar were due to the probable uncertainty of the action of the British Government in regard to the Kaunia-Moghalhat branch, and the through line to Dhubri. After correspondence with the Bengal Government it was ascertained in 1890 that the Government had no intention of abandoning the line from Kaunia to Moghal Hât and was in favour of converting it to the metre-gauge. Thereupon the construction of a 2½ feet gauge railway from the south side of the Torsa opposite



THE COOCH BEHAR RAILWAY STATION *Page 329.*

the town of Cooch Behar to Dewanhat, and thence to Gitaldaha was decided upon in 1891-92. The line was surveyed and constructed under Mr. R. W. H. Warneford, C.E., It was completed and opened for goods traffic from the 15th September 1893, and for passenger traffic, from the 1st March 1894, with the following stations:—1 Torsa, 2 Dewanhat, 3 Chawrahat, 4 Gitaldaha, 5 Gitaldaha Ghat.

Two more stations were opened in 1895-96, one at Bhetaguri and the other at Fakirtakiya. These are flag stations and lie at two important level-crossings of the line.

Under an agreement between His Highness and the Government of India, the management of the line was placed for two years in the hands of the Manager of the Eastern Bengal State Railway. This arrangement proved advantageous to the State, as it ensured an economical management of the line, no charge for supervision, which is estimated at 12½ per cent., being made by the Government. Only a charge for the supervision and keeping of accounts, proportionate to the receipts and expenditure of the line, was made in the same ratio as the cost of the Examiner of Account's office bears to the receipts and expenditure on the Eastern Bengal State Railway.

From the beginning of 1896, when the old working arrangement ended, the line is being worked by the Manager, Eastern Bengal State Railway System, for 45 per cent of the earnings, the State getting 55 per cent as its share of the profit. On this arrangement the line paid 5 per cent on the capital outlay in 1896.

Town extension.

On account of the threatened encroachment of the Torsa on a section of the line, a couple of miles down the Torsa station, the Railway was diverted to the east, and brought up in the town to the east of the jail in 1897-98. The town extension to the Cooch Behar station was opened for local booking for both coaching and goods traffic from the 15th December 1898, and for through-booking with foreign railways from the 1st January following.

Torsa bridge

The Torsa bridge was completed and opened for through running on the 15th June 1900.

Extension to Kholta.

The extension of the railway to Kholta on the frontier of the State was taken in hand by the end of 1897-98, and opened with the bridge over the Kaljani as far as the Alipur Duar Station in the following year. Baneswar is the only station in the State on this section of the line.

The railway was afterwards extended to the right bank of the Jaintia river near the Bhutan boundary.

The total length of the line within the State is 35 miles.

Cost of construction

The total capital outlay on the railway up to 31st March 1900 was Rs. 13,21,638 *viz.*, Rs 10,82,638 on the portion from Gitaldaha to Cooch Behar town including the Torsa bridge, and Rs. 2,39,000 [124] on the section between Cooch Behar and Alipur Duars. Of the total cost, eight lacs of rupees was taken as a loan from the Government of India, five lacs of which was received in 1892-93, and two lacs in 1897-98, on the security of the Chaklajat Estates.

Net earnings

The net earnings of the railway are improving every year as will appear from the following figures.

Year.	Net earning.
1897-98	... 1,5157
1898-99	... 23,451
1899-00	... 47,446

B. BUILDINGS.

Buildings before 1872.

When the British Government took charge of the State in 1864, there were only four *pucca* buildings at the Rajbari, very unsightly and in a ruinous condition, and an unfinished room with a verandah in front at the north-west corner of the Sagardighi, commenced by the late Maharaja,and intended for the Malkutchery Record office. During the Bhutan campaign the only branch of Public Works which received much attention was the roads, and nothing was done in the shape of erecting buildings. Very little also appears to have been done up to the close of 1872, beyond completing the Record room, repairing the buildings at the Rajbari, and erecting three semi-pucca buildings on the banks of the Sagardighi, one for the Dispensary, the second originally intended for the Post office, and the third for a ganja-godown.

Condition of buildings in 1873-74.

The following lines from Mr. Smith's Annual Report for 1873-74 show the state of buildings in the town in that year:—

"No pucca buildings have been erected since the late Raja's time except four very small ones, viz., the Dewan's record-room, the dispensary for out-patients, the gunja-godown, and the building originally intended for a Post office. The European officers are well accommodated in semi-permanent Bungalows with lath and plaster walls, but the public offices are held in mat Bungalows which have many defects. They are ugly, dark, very combust-

[124] This includes the cost of the Kaljani bridge, approximating Rs. 66,519, which has since been debited to the British section in the Duars.



Photo-Block.

THE COUNCIL HOUSE *Page 331.*

ible and, owing to the droppings of the bats which harbour in the roof, they often have a most nauseous smell. Four of the largest of these barn-like structures have been destroyed since the last Annual Report was written. The Civil and Criminal court-houses were burnt by an incendiary in November, and the Boarding school houses were blown down by a storm in April. Handsome masonry buildings would have been cheaper in the long run, and if properly constructed and provided with floors of asphalt or Portland cement and plenty of windows, would not have been open to any objections. Handsome public buildings would in time lead to handsome private buildings, especially when the State gave aid to shop-keepers and others willing to erect slightly pucca houses. Instead of this the indifference to æsthetics exhibited by the State is imitated by its subjects, who almost seem to rival each other in disfiguring the Raja's capital. Two of the principal *mahajans* have built on the principal street pucca *kothas* which are not nearly parallel to the line of the street, and others do their best to disfigure the town in a smaller way. The Civil and Criminal courts have been temporarily accommodated since the fire in the disused theatre-house which is also a barn-like thatched building. It is proposed to build the new court-houses on the Government standard plan for Magistrates' kutcheries with some slight modifications, so as to allow all the Civil, Criminal and Revenue courts of Cooch Behar to be accommodated in one building about the size of a District Magistrate's kutcheri."

Construction of public offices.

In 1874-75, two rooms were added to the Record-room. From the following year (1875-76) the building of public offices was systematically taken up, and before 1881-82, all the edifices on the north, east and south of the Sagardighi, and most other public buildings in the town rapidly sprang up. The old Printing office and the Settlement Record-room, which now accommodates the Superintendent of State's office and the Audit Department, was built in 1875-76 and 1876-77. The Criminal Court building, constructed on the Government standard plan, and originally intended for the offices of the Dewan, the Dewani Ahilkar and the Fauzdari Ahilkar, was commenced in 1875-76 and finished in the following year.

Supdt's office.

Criminal court

Central building and wings.

The Deputy Commissioner's and the Dewan's office was built with two stories and a handsome portico on Corinthian pillars, in the centre of the north bank of the Sagardighi and two wings were added to it in 1877-78, at a total cost of about a lac of rupees. The Central building subsequently came to be the Council House. The new Dispensary, the Thana and the Artizans' School were built on their present sites in the same year.

Dispensary, Thana and Artizans' School.

Jenkins School and Normal School.

The Jenkins School designed by Major Mant was commenced in 1877-78 and finished in 1879-80, in which year the Normal School building, afterwards occupied by the Malkutchery, was taken in hand and finished in 1881-82.

The Palace.

The attention of the Bengal Government was drawn to the necessity of erecting a suitable Palace for the Maharaja as early as 1875, as appears from the resolution of Sir Richard Temple dated 6th July 1875, wherein he records the result of his visit to Cooch Behar and interview with the Ranees, who desired that a Palace should be built in conformity with native ideas, meaning evidently one suitable for the preservation of the traditions of the Zenana system. In 1876, Major Mant was engaged to design a Palace which was to cost 6 lacs of rupees. The design was made and approved. An architect was engaged in England, and Messrs. Geneste and Smallwood, Contractors, came to Cooch Behar and commenced brick-making. Every thing seemed to promise the early completion of the work. But before long it became manifest that Major Mant's estimates had been based on unreliable *data*. He had got his rates from the Superintendent of Works at Cooch Behar, who had special facilities for working cheaply, and whose previous experience had been gained in buildings of a different nature from that now contemplated. Messrs. Geneste and Smallwood broke down in the brick-making arrangements, and, to make a long story short, Sir Ashley Eden, who succeeded Sir Richard Temple, refused to sanction the work being proceeded with according to Major Mant's plan, which he considered unsuitable to the climate and locality.

Mistakes in Major Mant's estimate.

Mr. Martin's plan approved and acted upon

Subsequently sanction was given to the north wing being constructed in a simplified form of Major Mant's plan, and Mr. Smith, C.E, the Government Superintending Engineer for the Rajshahi Circle, accepted the post of Consulting Engineer to the State. Some important alterations being made in the plans, the foundations of the north wing were sunk in 1879-80. The plan, as altered by Mr. Smith, was not, however, approved of by Government, and, Mr. Smith shortly afterwards resigning, Mr. E. J. Martin was appointed Consulting Engineer in addition to his own duties as Government Architect. He at once recommended the strengthening of the foundations, which was done. He then prepared a plan for a building of an entirely different character to Major Mant's but so designed as to utilize the foundations which had been put in. His plan was subsequently sanctioned. The entire building was estimated to cost seven lacs exclusive of terracotta and ornamental work. The contract was given to Messrs. Marillier and Edwards.



THE THAKURBARI — *Page 332.*

Cost of the Palace.

The Palace took a long time to finish, and was completed by the end of 1887. The actual cost up to that time amounted to Rs. 8,77,203. Paintings, marbelling and other decorations were subsequently done to the Palace, and the total expenditure on it came up to Rs. 1,11,000 at the end of 1897-98.

The Stables and Coach House were constructed simultaneously with the Palace at a cost of Rs. 1,37,415.

A description of the Palace has already appeared.[125]

Racket court, Swimming Bath and covered Tennis Court.

The Racket Court and the Swimming Bath, both of which were designed by Major Mant, were finished long before the completion of the Palace, the former in 1877-78, and the latter in the following year. The Covered Tennis Court was built in 1889-90, in imitation of the Viceroy's Court at Simla, the Superintendent of Works having been sent to Simla to take notes and measurements.

Palace grounds

With the commencement of the construction of the Palace, it was considered necessary to improve the surrounding lands. Dr. King, Superintendent of the Botanical Gardens, Calcutta, visited Cooch Behar in 1881, and prepared a plan for converting the jungly lands which surround the Palace into undulating slopes and artificial water, in fact into a highly ornamental pleasure ground, at an estimated cost of Rs. 2,70,506. This scheme was taken in hand after the Installation in 1883-84, and gradually given effect to, until the whole ground around the Palace, with pleasure jhils and tanks, was brought to its present state of improvement.

Removal of Thakurbari.

The old Thakurbari within the Palace compound was pulled down in 1889-90, and the new one, with the Anandamayi Dharmasala, built on its present site on the north bank of the Vairagidighi in the same year.

Other public buildings.

Other *pucca* buildings in the town of Cooch Behar were taken in hand one after another, and completed. The Navabidhan Samaj Building was finished in 1888-89; the Suniti College, in 1889-90; the house of Rajmata Aye Devati, on the *Puranavasha* site, in 1891-92. The Lansdowne Hall, named after the Earl of Lansdowne, Governor-General, who visited Cooch Behar in 1891-92, was commenced in that year and finished in 1894-95. It contains a Hall, $80' \times 25'$, on the ground-floor, which is the Public Hall of the town. In the side aisle and rooms, the State Library is accommodated. The upper storey is set apart for the Masonic Lodge.

Houses of the Members of the Council.

The Members of the Council were gradually accommodated with good two-storied pucca houses for their residence. The house of the Superintendent of the State was finished in 1891-92;

[125] *Vide Ante*, pages 37-60.

the house of the Dewan in 1894-95 ; and that of the Civil and Sessions Judge in 1896-97.

Sub-divisional Court Houses.

Three of the Sub-divisional Kutcheries were provided with good permanent buildings. The pucca Court-house at Mekhligunj was built in 1886-87, and those at Mathabhanga and Dinhata, in 1892-93, and 1896-97, respectively.

Earth-quake of 1897, and its effects

Things were at this stage when the terrible earthquake of 1897 occurred, convulsing the entire country and damaging or destroying almost all the edifices and buildings. It brought down portions of the Palace and seriously damaged others, and converted the nice Sagardighi square, north and east, into a heap of broken masonry. The effect of the earthquake is thus described by Mr. Lyall in his Annual Report for 1897-98 :—

"It is no exaggeration to say that the whole of the Public Works in the State have suffered more or less, and that a great deal of the work done during Your Highness' minority or since Your succession to power will have to be done over again. Buildings, railway, roads, bridges and wells all have suffered, and it will take many years to repair the damage done in that unhappy three minutes.

"The administrative wants of the State had been nearly all supplied. The College was the only State Institution that remained without a fitting house, and this matter was not urgent. It looked as if in the near future money might be available for such works as a proper railing for the Palace grounds, and the reclamation of the land between the Palace and the Rajmata's house. The earthquake has changed all this, and for years to come the bulk of the sum available for the Public Works will have to be spent in renewing the buildings &c., damaged by the earthquake."

From that time forward all available money in the Public Works Department had to be spent on repairs, and all original works had to be thrown back. It is due to the department to note that before the close of 1900, almost all the necessary repairs were done, and Cooch Behar again put on its old trim and tidy aspect, cropped down at places, but none the less pretty-looking for that.

Town in old times.

Town of Cooch Behar.—In the beginning of the present administration the town of Cooch Behar was full of jungles and small dirty ditches and mud-holes, without any thing like a good road or lane, and utterly destitute of any method in its arrangement. This state was gradually improved, and in 1873 it had

already grown up into a clean little town. In that year Mr. Metcalfe, then officiating Commissioner, wrote as follows of the town :—

"In September 1864, I had occasion to visit Cooch Behar on official business. I found it a swampy and unhealthy spot, a miserable and filthy town, narrow pathways, jungle patches, and dirty ditches. In the present year when I visited the place I was struck with the altered aspect of the town and suburbs. The tables have been turned, and Cooch Behar now contrasts favourably in comparison with some of our settled districts; in roads, in public offices, in education, in its record offices, in conservancy, in a neat jail, in jail-labour, in the Police, in all, it is far ahead of Jalpaiguri."

Mr. Dalton thus describes the mode in which the improvement of the town has been effected :—

Mode of effecting improvement.

"The lowness of the ground level has rendered it necessary for the inhabitants to construct artificial sites for their houses, and this has been done by digging holes and utilizing the earth taken from them. The consequence is that the town is full of cess-pools. Only one method of improving the present state of things presents itself; that is to dig large tanks which will hold a sufficient quantity of water to ensure its always remaining clean and wholesome, and fill up the holes with the earth excavated. In course of time under this system Cooch Behar will become a sort of Venice, all buildings and water; except that the roads will always remain and gondolas will not be requisite. During the last few years much has been done in this way. The town is divided into blocks and each year a block is taken in hand. A road is opened out through the block and one or more tanks are dug, and holes filled up."

Roads and tanks.

With the opening of the roads and the formation of the blocks the tanks, situated within the squares were extended and deepened, and the most important of them were supplied with *pucca* steps. With the earth obtained from the tanks the low lands of the town were raised, and the bad ditches filled up. Drains were cut on both sides of the road, and levelled as far as possible. The metalling of the roads commenced in 1871-72, and several roads were gradually metalled; and by the end of 1899-1900, the town of Cooch Behar came to possess 24 miles of road of which 10 miles were metalled.

Pucca houses.

The frequent occurrence of fire, causing, as it did, considerable loss of house and other property, was a great obstacle in the way of improvement of the town. The shops and other buildings were gradually made semi-pucca, and some merchants were

induced to have brick buildings. Dwelling houses in the blocks adjoining the bazar afterwards came to be constructed with roofs of non-inflammable material, under a bye-law of the Town Committee promulgated in 1891.

Fire-engines.

For putting down and extinguishing-fires, fire-engines were set up ; a fire-brigade establishment came to be maintained ; and a belfry was established for giving warning to the citizens of the occurrence of fire.

As already noticed, brick buildings were gradually made in different parts of the town, and almost all the State offices and courts came to be housed in permanent buildings. A good market-place, with corrugated iron roofs and pucca pavements and drains, was constructed in the bazar, which, while removing a great want, served as an ornament to the block.

Water-supply.

The large deep tanks of the town supplied good drinking water. *Pucca* wells and tube wells were also from time to time sunk in different parts of the town which have in a manner removed the want of wholesome drinking water.

Municipality and improvements.

With the establishment of a Municipality in 1885-86, arrangements were made for a proper conservancy, and the removal of filths from the town. The streets were supplied with lights, and the Municipal Police did the guarding and watching both by day and night.

Of late years a spacious park has been opened in a backward part of the town. It is beautifully laid out, ornamented with hedges and palms and groves, and is furnished with a pleasure Jhil.

In short every arrangement has been made on a moderate scale for the health, recreation and convenience of the citizens.

Some of the chief improvements are chronicled below :—

The Sagar-dighi.

Formerly, the Sagardighi, which is the largest tank in the town, was in a filthy state. Cattle and even elephants used to be bathed in it. A public meeting of the inhabitants of the town was called by the Commissioner, and with the sense of the meeting, the bathing in the tank was prohibited in 1865-66. The original dimensions of this tank were 795 feet by 560 feet. It was gradually enlarged so as to measure 890 feet by 610 feet. Two *pucca* ghats were supplied to it. The improvement commenced in 1867-68 and ended in 1874-75.

Jhil-dighi.

The Jhil near Devibari was formerly bordered by cane-jungle and covered with rank vegetation. It was improved and converted into a large tank in 1872-73.

Laldighi and Bairagi lighi.

The Laldighi was enlarged and improved in 1873-74. The improvement of the Bairagidighi commenced in 1875-76, and completed with the *pucca* ghat on the west bank in 1880-81. The dimensions obtained were 390 feet by 380 feet.

Market-place.

The Bazar tank was extended and deepened, and with the earth obtained the site of the Tahabazar was improved in 1880-81. A corrugated iron-shed for the market-place was commenced in 1881-82 and completed during the next year at a cost of Rs. 25,000. It is a rectangular building of three sides, of which the base is 112 × 31 feet, and two parallel sides 126 × 36 feet. The opening is to the north and is partly blocked by the Tehsil Kutchery in the same style. On the south there was a portico facing the Laldighi. The house was constructed with corrugated iron roofs, resting on wooden trusses supported by octagonal wooden pillars. The roof was made with two spans of 18 feet each with a valley between. Brick-on-edge flooring was provided for the passage, and a terrace-floor with a coat of Portland cement on the surface for the platform for shops, which are 6 inches higher than the passage. The market-place used to be formerly lighted with hurricane lamps. Kerosine oil-gas light was supplied to it in 1890.

Belfry and Victoria tower.

A wooden belfry was built near the Thana in 1882-83. The Victoria Jubilee Tower was erected in front of the market-place in 1887, in commemoration of the Jubilee of the reign of the late Empress Victoria.

Narendranarayan Park.

The Narendranarayan Park was opened in 1894.

Protective works.—The Torsa Bund, meant for keeping out the flood of the river and protecting the Palace and other parts of the town from inundation, was constructed by the west of the Palace in 1870-71. This has subsequently been largely improved and extended.

From some time past the Bura Torsa which flowed below the Palace had been gradually increasing in volume and velocity, and alarm was felt for the safety of the Palace and the Town. Several plans were discussed to prevent the possibility of such an occurrence, which seemed very probable if the main Torsa continued to empty more and more of its water every rains into the channel below the Palace. It was, therefore, decided to divert the river from its passage passed the Palace by cutting a canal across the gorge of the loop of the river, from a point near Damodarpur to Bheladanga. This canal was commenced in March 1890, and finished before the rains of that year. The scheme proved a success; the main current was diverted from below the Palace, the diversion drawing the bulk of the water. This channel has

since assumed large proportions, and the river has become navigable throughout the year, which for several years before 1890 it was not. The estimated cost of this project was about Rs. 14,000 only.

Established in 1869.

The Artizans' School.—In the year 1869, an institution under the name of the Artizans' School, was organised under the orders of Colonel Haughton. It was opened on the 9th September of that year and placed under an independent Superintendent. The object was to impart technical education to the people of Cooch Behar. Classes to teach carpentry and black-smith's work, as well as that of potters and weavers, masons and braziers, were opened. The people were encouraged to join the institution by the grant of monthly stipends. The pupils were apprenticed for three years, after which the successful students were supplied with a set of tools to enable them to set up in the profession they had learnt.

Its objects.

Transferred to Edctn. dept. and P. W. D.

In 1875, the institution was transferred to the Education department, and from the first of January 1878, it was placed under the charge of the Public Works Department. For want of pupils several departments had to be abolished one after another, and the institution was maintained with three departments only, namely, black-smiths, carpenters, and tailors. To effect economy in the administration, the school, as a teaching institution, was abolished in 1887, by the orders of the Council, and it was converted into the Public Works workshop, the tailor's department being at the same time abolished.

Cost of the school.

A provision of Rs. 41,000 used to be made in the Budget for the working of the school. This was stopped from 1887. As an educational institution the school at present exists only in name, the apprentices being day-labourers whose number fluctuates according to the requirements of the workshop.

Forest avenue.

Forests and Plantations.—A beginning in growing forests and plantations was virtually made in 1870 by planting an avenue of mango, *Kadam* and other indigenous trees on the Nilkuthi main road at a cost of Rs. 170, although something had been done in this direction in the previous year also. The work gradually grew in importance, and money was spent in larger amounts every year. In 1872, seeds of teak and *shishu* were for the first time supplied by the Commissioner's office, and regular nurseries of seedlings were made which were afterwards planted out. From that year plantations of valuable timber were for the first time commenced to be made. By the end of 1874-75, there came to be in existence nine plantations of teak, one of *shishu* and one *sal*. Besides, there were some avenues of *shishu* trees on several roads, and different kinds of trees were planted out in and about

Plantations commenced in 1872.

the Deputy Commissioner's compound in Nilkuthi. Within the next two years avenues of *shishu* sprang up along 12½ miles of road. Mr. Smith, Deputy Commissioner, was a great lover of trees, and some of the best avenues now in existence date back to his time.

Teak plantations.

The teak plants did not flourish in the State. A supply of teak seed was obtained from Burmah in 1874; and after a few years of experiment the Deputy Commissioner observed in 1879 that the experimental teak plantations might be looked upon as a complete failure. Some plantations had, however, come into existence in some of the sub-divisional stations, and a few small patches in the interior.

Sal trees.

One thousand *sal* trees were obtained from the Bhutan forests in 1878-79, and planted near the Nilkuthi.

Shishu plantations.

Two large plantations of *shishu* were made in 1880-81, one in Taluk Duderkuthi Dewanbas, and the other in Balashi Nababgunj. A third was planted near Ghegirghat in the following year.

India rubber.

Some India Rubber plants were obtained from the Assam Forest Department in 1880-81, and were planted in the town of Cooch Behar.

Khair trees.

Khair Forests were formerly reserved. This wood is not, however, lasting, and the forests were subsequently given up.

Department of Agriculture and Forests.

On the formation of a separate department of Agriculture and Forest in 1882, the forests and plantations, hitherto under the management of the Superintendent of Works, were transferred to the Revenue Department, under the supervision of which the new department was placed. The expenditure on forests and plantations reached their maximum in this department in 1881-82, and amounted to about Rs. 5,000. Henceforth only the road-side avenues were left with the Public Works Department, and the annual grant was considerably brought down.

Plantations and forests in 1892-93.

On the abolition of the department of Agriculture and Forests, the State forests were transferred to the Public Works Department in 1892-93. The forests and plantations were now 31 in number, of which 10 were *shishu* plantations, 13 were *Sal*, and 8 teak. One of the *shishu* and nine of the *Sal* forests were of natural growth.

At this time the road-side avenues measured about one hundred miles.

Cultivation of orange.

In 1896-97, an experiment was made in the cultivation of orange. Orange trees were procured from Sylhet, and 400 were

planted at Guard Hat and 100 near the Nilkuthi. The experiment was, however, not successful.

Since 1896-97, the thinning out of the forests has began, and some revenue is being annually derived by the sale of the underwood, branches, and up-rooted and thinned-out trees.

Manufacture of sleepers.

In 1897-98, and the following year about 13,000 sleepers valued at about Rs. 20,000 were manufactured from the State Forests and avenues, and supplied to the Railway. These were made from both *Sal* and *shishu* trees.

Dak Bungalows and Rest-houses.

Miscellaneous.—The Dak Bangalows and Rest-houses in the State are under the management of this Department. Of these there are seven, namely, three Dak Bungalows, and four Rest-houses. The former are at Cooch Behar, Gitaldaha and Haldibari, and the latter at the head-quarters of the four muffasil Subdivisions. Besides these there are nineteen Inspection Bungalows at all the important places in the State.

The Superintendent of Works has charge of the arrangement of His Highness's Annual Shooting Camps.

Expenditure on Public Works.—The total Expenditure on Public Works amounted to about 23 lacs of rupees during His Highness's minority, and about 24 lacs after his Installation. Besides this, a sum of about 22 lacs was spent on the Palace and connected buildings, and about 13 lacs on the Railway. In all, therefore, a sum of nearly 82 lacs of rupees has been expended on the Public Works of the State from the beginning of the present rule.

Superintendents of Works.—Babu Gobind Chunder Roy was appointed Superintendent of Works in 1866, and was succeeded by Mr. J. T. Nash, who held charge from 1868-69 to December 1870. His successor was Mr. C. C. Vanzuilicom who joined his post in July 1871, and was relieved by Mr. E. A. Mayer in March 1873. Mr. Mayer was at the head of the Department for a short time only, and was succeeded in 1873-74 by Babu Gobind Chandra Roy, who for the second time came to be at the head of the department. That officer retired in July 1888, and was succeeded on the 1st August by Babu Kedar Nath Majumdar, the present Superintendent of works.

(4) MEDICAL.

Medical officer in Harendranarayan's reign.

Before the year 1819 the European system of medicine was not introduced in the country. In June 1814, during the reign of Maharaja Harendranarayan, Mr. MacLeod, Commissioner, applied for an Assistant Surgeon to do duty permanently in Cooch

Behar ; but owing to the pressing demands of the public service in British India and the limited number of such men, the Government could not comply with that request. In November 1819, however, the Government sanctioned the entertainment of a Native Doctor on an allowance of Rs. 40 per mensem for doing medical duties at Cooch Behar under the British Commissioner.

In March 1841, Maharaja Shivendranarayan applied to the Government of India for the services of a medical man to attend on himself and at court. There was "difficulty in procuring a person willing to come to such a region as Cooch Behar under a not very definite security as to his remuneration, treatment or permanency of employment," and after some time only one candidate, Syama Charan Sarkar by name, one of the best students of the Medical College, accepted the office under the conditions offered by the Maharaja. In February 1842, Babu Syama Charan Sarkar was appointed Medical officer attached to the Cooch Behar Court. In 1846, on a second application of the Maharaja for a European Medical Officer to accompany him to Benares and there remain with him, Dr. Ralph Moore was sent to Cooch Behar by the Government of India on a salary of Rs. 350. Dr. Moore was at Benares with Maharaja Shivendranarayan when he died. He was afterwards appointed tutor to Narendranarayan, but his services were subsequently dispensed with as noticed in a previous chapter. In Sivendranarayan's reign.

Babu Syama Charan Sarkar continued to be the resident physician in Cooch Behar, till his lamentable end by suicide in October 1863. Babu Bhagavati Charan Mukherji was appointed Sub-Assistant Surgeon in May 1864, and was succeeded by Babu Bireswar Palit in November 1868.

Although there was a medical man in Cooch Behar from so far back as 1842, no attempt was made to establish regular dispensaries or hospitals previous to the commencement of the British administration in the beginning of the present rule. The first dispensary was opened in the town of Cooch Behar in 1865 with Babu Hari Charan Sen, Native Doctor, in immediate charge. It was started on a humble scale and used to be partly supported by local subscriptions. In 1869-70, the medical establishment consisted of one Sub-Assistant Surgeon, two Native Doctors and four compounders. As the amount of private aid was very small, it was dispensed with in that year. At this time there were three other hospitals at the Sudder, namely, the Police, Military and Jail. The Charitable Dispensary was under the immediate charge of a Hospital Assistant, who was assisted Establishment of Sudder Dispensary

by a Native Doctor, and the other three hospitals were looked after by the second Native Doctor.

Appointment of a Civil Surgeon.

The Sub-Assistant Surgeon was in charge of the Medical Department up to May 1873, when the post of the Civil Surgeon was created, and Dr. Thomas Briscoe was appointed to it. Henceforth the Assistant Surgeon came to be in charge of the Dispensary only.

Dispensaries at Dinhata, Mekhligunj and Mathabhanga.

The first dispensary in the Moffusil was established at Dinhata. It was opened for out-patients on the 13th June 1873; in-door arrangements were made in 1874-75. The second was opened at Mekhligunj on the 9th August 1874, and the third at Mathabhanga on the 28th September following. Arrangements for in-patients were made in both of them in 1875-76. The establishment of these dispensaries consisted of a Hospital Assistant on a pay of Rs. 50 with a house allowance of Rs. 5; one compounder, one cook, one servant and one *methor*. The Hospital Assistants were also in charge of the Sub-divisional lock-ups.

Haldibari.

On the 1st June 1885, an aided dispensary was opened at Haldibari for the treatment of out-patients.

Fulbari.

A dispensary at Fulbari was sanctioned in 1888-89; it was opened on the 5th July 1898. In-door arrangement was made in it from April 1898.

Hospital statistics.

In 1866-67, the number of patients treated at the Sudder was 1,823 including 100 in-patients. It gradually rose and stood at 4,988, of whom 334 were in-patients, in 1873-74, when a dispensary was opened at Dinhata. In 1875-76, after the opening of the three hospitals at Dinhata, Mathabanga and Mekhligunj, the number of patients still went up, and showed 1,644 in-patients and 11,114 out-patients, or a total of 12,758. Henceforth the number gradually increased as shewn below, the increase in the attendance of out-patients being always steady :—

Year.	In-patients.	Out-patients.	Total.
1880-81 ...	... 1,289	13,236	14,525
1890-91 ...	... 1,487	16,998	18,485
1899-1900 ...	... 1,332	19,890	21,222

Conservative habits of the people.

If the people of Cooch Behar are great conservatives in other matters, they are doubly so in the matter of treatment of their invalid. They have no faith in European medicines and prefer their *Ojhas* or village quacks to the most experienced physicians. The people in the interior very seldom, if ever, resort to these dispensaries and hospitals; it is only the inhabitants of

the towns and *bundars* and their neighbourhood that have gradually come to appreciate the European system of medicine.

Common maladies.

Leaving aside the epidemics of cholera and small-pox, cases of which very rarely come to our hospitals, the diseases most common in every part of the State are fever, spleen, rheumatic affections, skin-disease and goitre. These furnish about half the patients annually treated in our hospitals and dispensaries. Fever commands a very large number of patients ; next to it does skin-disease. There has been a falling off in the number of patients suffering from goitre since 1889-90.

Statistics of sickness.

The figures given below will throw some light on the comparative extent of these diseases, as their proportion to the total number treated has almost been the same during the years noted:—

Diseases.	1875-76.	1880-81.	1890-91.	1899-1900.
Total number of patients of all descriptions ...	**12,758**	**14,525**	**18,485**	**21,222**
Fever	3,345	4,476	4,048	4,726
Spleen	461	480	496	792
Rheumatic affections ..	757	787	947	605
Skin disease	1,098	1,553	1,893	1,805
Goitre	1,391	1,087	813	608

Commencement of Vaccination

Vaccination.—Inoculation was the only prophylactic against small-pox up to 1865-66. Although a beginning was made in vaccination by vaccinating the young Maharaja and some members of the Raj family in that year, only 81 operations could be made till 1868-69. In 1869-70, and the following year, Colonel Haughton obtained some Government vaccinators from the Darjeeling circle ; but the people were very much averse to vaccination, and during the latter year some misunderstanding occurred between the Morangias and the vaccinators, and the latter were recalled on that account to their own circle. Babu Bireswar Palit, who was then in medical charge of the State, at the request of the Commissioner, taught some of the indegenous inoculators how to vaccinate, and work under his supervision. As these men were known among the people the plan worked admirably, though great difficulty was experienced on many occasions, and some vaccinators were actually assaulted by the people.

Its progress.

Prohibition of inoculation.

During 1879-80, it was decided that a thorough vaccination of the whole State should be done, and that inoculation, which by this time had greatly decreased, should be prohibited. To carry out this, seven natives of Cooch Behar, and two of them Rajgans, were sent to Dr. Lidderdale to be taught the Government system of vaccination. Inoculation was prohibited in the State shortly after this.

Vaccinating agency.

In the beginning vaccination was done by salaried State vaccinators. One Deputy Superintendent and vaccinating staff were appointed in 1869-70. As it was afterwards found that ex-inoculators who had been taught and had practised vaccination were more popular with the people, it was resolved towards the end of the British Administration to dispense with the vaccinating staff, and only provide for the inspection of the work of the independent practitioners.

After the Installation the paid staff was abolished in 1883-84. The post of an Inspector was created and two vaccinators were retained. During the working season additional Inspectors, and vacinators were licensed. The vaccinators were supplied with blank forms, lancets and capillary tubes by the State, the lancets being returned after the season was over. These men were permitted to charge 2 annas for every successful case from the parties operated upon, and received a bonus from the State which was fixed at Rs. 3 per hundred cases in 1883-84, from which 8 annas was deducted and paid to the Inspector. This was gradually brought down, and amounted to Rs. 2 per hundred successful cases in 1894-95. The permanent staff was abolished from March 1900.

Vaccination statistics.

The figures given below will give an idea of the progress of vaccination in the State from 1873 :—

Year.	Number of persons vaccinated.
1873-74	4,449
1874-75	7,065
1875-76	7,825
1880-81	17,447
1885-86	28,127
1890-91	13,755
1895-96	20,709
1899-00	16,895

Rainfall.—The register of rain-fall was opened at the Sudder Dispensary on the 22nd September 1871. All the dispensaries in the State have got rain-gauges, and the rain-fall is regularly registered in them.

The average annual rain-fall of twenty years from 1879-80 to 1899-1900 was 132·79 inches. This average was exceeded in nine years, seven of which fell within the first decade. The heaviest rain-fall occurred in 1890-91, when it amounted to 187·41 inches, and the smallest, namely, 90·69 inches, in the following year.

Meteorological Observations.—The meteorological observations were for the first time recorded at the Sudder Dispensary on the 1st April 1874. They have since been regularly registered here. There is no other station for these observations in the State.

Mid-wife.—A mid-wife whose services were obtained from Calcutta by Her Highness was taken into the Medical Department on a salary of Rs. 100 per mensem in 1889-90. Since that time a mid-wife has always been on the staff on that pay.

Post-mortem examination.—Previous to the year 1895-96 post-mortem examinations on the corpses of persons suspected of having died by foul play were held in the Sub-divisions by the Hospital Assistants. In 1895-96, this power was withdrawn from the Native Doctors with one exception, and most of the examinations have now to be done at the Sudder by the Civil Surgeon, and, in his absence, by the Assistant Surgeon in charge.

Civil Surgeons.—Dr. Thomas Briscoe, Honorary Surgeon Major, was the first Civil Surgeon of Cooch Behar, and assumed medical charge of the State on the 20th June 1873. On his taking furlough in 1876, Surgeon Major H. Cookson, and Surgeon D.W.D. Comins, successively officiated in the post till Dr. Briscoe's return in December 1877. On his retirement ten years after, Dr. J. L. Hendley of the Uncovenanted Medical Service held the post from 1887 to 1892, and was succeeded by Dr. E. H. Brown I.M.S., who was relieved by Dr. A. D. Mackinnon in September 1893. On the latter resigning in the following year, Dr. Durga Das Gupta M.B., held the medical charge of the State for two years from September 1894, and was succeeded by Surgeon-Captain Jay Gould I.M.S., in September 1896. That officer, however, reverted to Government service after five months in February of the following year, and was succeeded by Dr. Kumar Bhabendranarayan of the Uncovenanted Medical Service in March 1898. His successor was Surgeon Captain C. B. Prall, I.M.S., who joined the post in December 1898, and remained at it till March following. The present Civil Surgeon Dr. Stanlake James assumed charge on the 10th July 1899. During the interims Assistant Surgeon Babu Bireswar Palit, and after his retirement Babu Mohit Lall Sen, remained in medical charge of the State.

(5). MISCELLANEOUS.

Military.—Mr. Beveridge, Deputy Commissioner writes as follows regarding the state of the Military of Cooch Behar in the Annual Administration Report for 1864-65 :—

Old military.

"Previous to the arrival of Colonel Haughton the forces of the Raja of Cooch Behar were in a very undisciplined state. They were badly armed and badly paid, and on one occasion they forgot their duty so far as to assist a mob of prisoners and others in compelling the late Raja to abandon his resolution of visiting Calcutta and to return to his palace.

Cooch Behar force during the second Bhutan war.

"A change took place when Lieutenant Hedayet Ali, formerly of the 45th Regiment, was appointed by Colonel Haughton, Captain Commandant on a salary of Rs. 500 a month. Under Captain Ali's zealous and skilful superintendence the force was speedily weeded of its inefficient members, and the discipline of the others was improved. The infantry was increased to 700 men; the number of sowars was fixed at 35; and a Jemádar and 13 Golandazes were entertained for the management of the two brass six-pounders belonging to the Raja.

"By permission of Government arms and accoutrement for these troops were purchased from the Ordnance Department in Calcutta. When the Left Centre Column advanced into the Duars in December last (1864) Captain Ali followed their steps with a part of his troops and established his head-quarters at Chechakhata. Afterwards when Chechakhata proved unhealthy, the head-quarters were removed to Alipur (named after Captain Ali) on the banks of the Kaljani. The Cooch Behar troops proved themselves most useful during the late campaign a great part of the escort duty having been performed by them.

"The Post of Chamarchi was held by them throughout the rains and 100 of them were for a time stationed at Buxa. In an attack on the latter place one sepoy of the Cooch Behar troops distinguised himself so much as to have been recommended for the order of merit by the officer in Command of the garrison."

Reduction of force.

In the following year the Cooch Behar army was almost entirely done away with. They were a heavy burden on the State and became useless as soon as the conquest of the Bhutan Duars was completed. Only a company of 80 men and the usual compliment of native officers were now retained as guard for the Palace, afew horsemen were also kept on.

The Cooch Behar troops, as already noticed, did good service in the Bhutan campaign and Captain Hedayet Ali their Commandant obtained the thanks of Government and the title of Khan Bahadur with a big Jaigir in the western Duar, for his services. One hundred and thirty-eight of the men won medals for service in that war, and Sir Richard Temple in the course of his visit in 1875 was graciously pleased to present them to some of those who still remained in service at the time. His Honour made the following remarks regarding the Military :— Good service medals.

"The sepoys of the State are at present very few; their numerical strength hardly exceeds one hundred. Though it would be very undesirable to allow any thing like a military force to grow up here, yet it may be considered that the strength of sepoys might be somewhat enlarged, so as to enable the State to maintain order within its own limits, especially as it is so near to the Bhutan frontier. Also some small body of horse might be added, say twenty or thirty Sowars, of whom there are at present none; at least there were at the time of my visit only a very few, some six men." Sir Richard Temple on the State Sepoys.

In 1883-84, the force consisted of 1 Subadar, 1 Jemadar, 6 Havildars, 8 Naiks and 100 Sepoys, besides 3 drummers, 7 gunners and 7 Sowars. Changes in the strength were from time to time made, and in 1899-1900, the number of men stood at 147. Present strength.

The old heavy and useless Brown Bess muskets with which the corps was armed were replaced by Snider carbines in 1896-97.

The State Press and Printing Office.—In 1866, Mr. Beveridge made his proposal for the establishment of a Press in Cooch Behar in the following words :—

"The late Raja wished to establish a Printing Press and got one from Calcutta; but the scheme fell through like many others of his advanced but ill-digested projects, and now nothing remains of the press except a few boxes of types. The Dewan and all the other officers of Cooch Behar are anxious that a Press should be got up, and they consider that besides other advantages the work performed by it would serve as a compensation for its cost. I am of the same opinion; for I think that there is ample room for a press in Cooch Behar for the purpose of printing receipts, forms, circular-orders of the Commissioner, etc.; and if the Jail prisoners were made to work it the cost would not be heavy."

The necessity for a Printing establishment become more urgent with the progress of the settlement operations in the State which created a demand for forms in increased numbers, and Colonel Haughton sanctioned the establishment of a Press in 1868. The Press was established in 1868 at Jalpaiguri.

A Royal Press with the necessary equipage and tools and types was obtained from Messrs. Wyman Brothers of Calcutta, at a cost of Rs. 2,500, and set up at the Commissioner's head-quarters at Jalpaiguri "with a view to its being got into working order before it was sent to Cooch Behar." A Bengali and English knowing compositor and a Pressman were at the same time procured through that firm.

Transferred to Cooch Behar in 1875.

In 1875, the State Press was transferred to Cooch Behar, and placed under the superintendence of Babu Gopal Chandra Ghosh, Treasury Accountant, who had considerable experience in press-work. Before that time there had been a whole time Superintendent of the Press. After the death of Babu Gopal Chandra in 1891 the charge of the Press was transferred to the Head Clerk and Sheristadar of the office of the Superintendent of the State. Babu Gopal Chandra Ghosh used to get an allowance of Rs. 70 a month for the charge of the Press, which has since his death been reduced to Rs. 25.

Establishment.

When the Press was transferred from Jalpaiguri the establishment consisted of one Printer and Reader, three English knowing senior compositors, two assistant English knowing compositors, two distributors, and one Head Pressman and two assistants. This staff used to be assisted by one or two literate prisoners who learnt and performed the work of compositors, and a number of illiterate prisoners who worked as pressmen, ink-men and fly-boys. Some of the literate convicts who had learnt press-work obtained employment in the Press after their release from jail. Formerly, no charge was made for the Jail-labour supplied to the Press. The system of payment for such labour was introduced from the beginning of 1888-89, necessitating an increase of Rs. 1,000 in the cost of the Press establishment, which has lately gone further up.

Jail-labour.

Increase of establishment.

With the increase of work the establishment had to be strengthened from time to time. The number of compositors and press-men was increased shortly after the Installation; a separate Reader was appointed in September 1899, and more hands were engaged in the composing department. So that at the end of 1899-1900, the establishment came to consist of one Reader, one Printer, fourteen compositors, two distributors and six pressmen, besides one clerk, two duftries and one peon and some menial servants.

Number of Printing machines

With the gradual development of the Printing office, the number of printing presses had also to be increased. At the end of 1899-1900 there were in all eight presses, namely, two

Royal, one Demy, four Foolscap, and one Half-foolscap. In 1898-99, for the speedy manufacture of stamps, a Royal Roller Machine Press was obtained from England through Messrs. Ewing and Company of Calcutta, and set up in the following year to be worked by hand power.

Works done by the Press.

Before the establishment of the Press Colonel Haughton had fixed upon the printing of the old Government records connected with Cooch Behar to be its first task. Accordingly, a part of the Cooch Behar Select Records, consisting of Mercer and Chauvet's Report of 1788, was printed in 1869. Two other volumes of the same were got ready in 1882 and 1884. The *Cooch Behar Gazette* was started in1883-84, and the first number of it was published on the 3rd March 1884. It is a fortnightly publication.and its printing forms one of the regular works of the Printing Office. The Press also executes all ordinary and extraordinary works connected with the State and the Chaklajat Estates. It formerly used to do the works of the District Officers of the Rajshahi Division free of charge under the orders of the Commissioner. Owing to the gradual increase of the State works it was necessary to discontinue this practice in 1884-85.

Cooch Behar Gazette.

Besides works connected with the State, the Press performs some works connected with the Municipalities, and different associations and clubs, and other public bodies. Assistance is also rendered to local or native private individuals by printing their books or pamphlets. In this way the famous Ratnamala Vyakarana, composed in the reign of Maharaja Naranarayan, was printed in 3 years ending with 1894-95. Some monthly Journals and Magazines were also from time to time printed here, for giving encouragement to private enterprise in this direction.

Printing of Stamps.

The most important duty of the Press is, however, the manufacture of Stamps. The stamps of different descriptions in use in the State are printed or ruled here in the presence of the Treasury Officer, who is the *ex-officio* Superintendent of Stamps. Stamps worth about two lacs of rupees on an average are annually turned out by the Press. The local manufacture of Stamps commenced in 1883-84.

Expenditure.

The annual expenditure on the Press was very small at the beginning. It amounted to Rs. 2,746 in 1876-77. The ordinary charges of establishment and materials came up to Rs. 10,744 in 1883-84; subsequently it rose higher and amounted to Rs. 15,040 in 1899-1900.

Established in 1870.

The State Library.—The State Library is a place for reading and reference and is directly under the Superintendent of the

State. It was established by Colonel Haughton in the year 1870 during the minority of His Highness. A valuable stock of books was first purchased at an auction sale of Messrs. Rozario and Co. in England. The books were rebound there, as could be judged from the nice calf-bindings, and kept in a room at Nilkuthi till the tin-house now occupied by the Record Office was built for the accommodation of the Library. In 1895, the Library was removed to the Lansdowne Hall.

Rules regarding the loan of books.

Formerly, there was a rule forbidding the removal of any book from the Library; but a ticket of leave signed by the Deputy Commissioner used to be given to such persons as were willing to come and read in the Library. This rule was, however, rescinded in August 1882, when it was ordered that the Library was to be open to State officers in receipt of pay of not less than Rs. 50 a month. This practice was observed till August 1891, when certain serious mutilations being brought to the notice of His Highness it was ordered that all persons having the privilege of taking books out of the Library would have to deposit a sum of Rs. 5 each as a security against such damage. That rule is still in force.

J. W. Trotten in his book "India under Victoria" speaks of this Library thus:—"The little State of Cooch Behar on Assam border could boast of a Library richer than any to be found in Bengal outside Calcutta." The Library is a fairly extensive one embracing works on many subjects. It contains some rare and valuable books. The number of volumes on the shelves came up to 8,183 in 1900 as shewn below:—

No. of volumes

English	7,057
Bengali	660
Sanskrit	107
Urdu and Persian	111
Modern Languages	130
Manuscripts	118
Total	8,183

The manuscripts were lately examined under orders of the Dewan by Dwar Pundit Mahamahadyapaka Sidhvanath Vidyavagisha. Papers, both overland and inland, are subscribed. The Library is kept open from 7 to 10 a.m. and 2 to 5 p.m. The establishment consists of a Librarian and a Duftry. The yearly grant for the purchase of books was formerly Rs. 2,000; but since the establishment of the College it has been reduced to Rs. 1,000.

The Philkhana.—The State Philkhana is under the management of a European Superintendent. Its strength in 1899-1900



Photo-Block Survey of India Offices, Calcutta, 1903.

THE *PAT* ELEPHANT.—*Page 350.*



ALL THE STATE ELEPHANTS *Page 351.*

was 52 elephants. One of these is the Pat elephant, which enjoys special privileges. The elephants are largely used during His Highness' annual shoot.

Khedda operation.

The *Khedda* or elephant-catching operation was first taken in hand under His Highness' order in 1894-95. In the following year the elephant Mehal of the Goalpara district of Assam was leased for two years for Rs. 9,000, and in 1898-99 permission was obtained by the Maharaja from the Deva Raja of Bhutan to catch elephants within his territory. The nature of the country, however, made a *gar* Khedda or an extension operation impossible. In the following year elephant was caught in Assam.

The Khedda operation has so far been a success. The jotedars who take part in it have to pay a fee of Rs. 200 each. Some of the elephants caught in the Khedda are annually sold off.

The total expenditure on the Philkhana was Rs. 28,000 in 1899-00.

SECTION III.

Revenue Department.

The following branches of administration are noticed under this head :—(1) Land Revenue ; (2) Excise Revenue ; (3) Stamp Revenue ; (4) Settlement Department ; (5) Treasury ; and (6) Miscellaneous.

(1.) LAND REVENUE.

Amount of revenue in 1864.

When Colonel Haughton assumed charge, the net amount of revenue which the State could legitimately demand from those who held land under it was approximately Rs. 2,83,686. But as greater part of the land was let in farm, and as all sorts of illegal cesses were exacted by the farmers from the cultivators, it is impossible to say even approximately what the gross amount paid by the actual cultivators might have been.

Divisions of Revenue—Mal and Debutter.

The two grand divisions of revenue were *Mal* and *Debutter*. The latter could not be properly styled as revenue at all, as it was set apart for religious purposes and was not available for expenditure on secular administration. The *Khangi* or house-hold-revenue was a sub-division of the Mal, and is supposed to have had its origin in the fact that the Government of India, in calculating the revenues of the State for the purpose of fixing the tribute, omitted to count the revenue of certain mehals as being appropriated to the Maharaja's special

Khangi mehal.

and private maintenance, and these mehals were accordingly set apart for that purpose.

Syrat mehal.

Syrat mehals, consisting of Hâts or markets, ferries and fisheries, were in existence from a long time, and formed an important source of revenue. Formerly, these mehals were incorporated and leased out with the Mal or Debutter mehals to which they appertained. This practice appears to have been given up in the case of Mal mehals from 1865-66, and these mehals were separately farmed out from that time. This reform was attended with an increase of revenue, and the current demand appears to have increased from that of the proceeding year by about Rs. 8,000. In the Debutter mehals the old practice seems to have continued till the end of 1866-67, the separate leasing out of the Syrat mehals having been made from the next official year.

Mode of settlement.

The Syrat mehals are leased out to the highest bidder for a fixed term, which is 3 years in the case of fisheries, and 5 years in the case of markets and ferries. The Ijardars of *Hâts* and *ghâts* can collect tolls only under fixed schedules of rates. Ferries are grouped under three classes, and there is a different schedule of rate applicable to each.

The settlement of these mehals is concluded by the Subdivisional Officers and requires the sanction of the Dewan. As soon as the bid is concluded the person who obtains the lease has to deposit in cash one year's revenue as security. If the bid exceeds Rs. 500, a fourth of the annual jama is accepted for the security. In exceptional cases security in landed property instead of cash is allowed to be given.

Sub-letting prohibited.

The sub-letting of Syrat mehals was prohibited under an order of the Commissioner, dated the 1st April 1867.

All Hâts and Ghâts in the country belong to the State. Jalkar mehals above 10 Bighas in area even if situated with the boundaries of a jote are not ordinarily leased out with the jotes, but are set apart as fisheries and farmed out as Syrat mehals.

No ferry or Hât can be established without the sanction of the Dewan. The rule on the subject is laid down in a Robakary dated the 9th July 1868, which requires the person wishing to establish a Hât in the State to obtain a written authority from the Dewan. In 1892-93, a penal clause was added to this rule making the person infringing it liable to be fined by the Dewan up to Rs. 200.

Collection of Revenue.

When the British Government took charge, the collection of land revenue was in the hands of the Dewan Babu Nil Kamal Sanyal who had two assistants. The establishment was divided

into three parts, namely, the Malcutcheri, the Dewanbash Kutcheri and the Sarasari Kutcheri. The first two were offices for the collection of revenue, and the last for the trial of summary suits for the realization of rent. Formerly, during the reign of Maharaja Harendranarayan, there were three different offices presided over by as many officers. There were the (1) *Khalshah* or Malcutcheri, (2) *Khangi* with its sub-divisions of *Khashbash* and *Baje mehals* ; and (3) Debutter office. The *Khashbash* and *Baje mehal* offices were abolished by Maharaja Narendranarayan, and the work of these offices was incorporated with that of the *Khangi* office. The *Khangi* office in its turn was abolished by Colonel Haughton in July 1864, and the mehals managed under it were transferred to the Malcutcheri under the Dewan. The Debutter mehals had been put under a separate office by the late Maharaja, and this office existed till 1865. In the following year, 1865-66, the Debutter office was abolished and incorporated with the Dewan's office. The *Dewanbash* lands, which consisted for the most part of waste and resumed lands, such as *churs*, *beels* &c., were incorporated with the *Khash Mehal* lands, and the name *Dewanbash* was abolished. Thus, by the end of 1865-66 the revenue-paying mehals of all sorts were placed entirely under the Dewan.

Ijardari system of collections.

The collection of land revenue was made in two ways: First, through the farmers; and, secondly, directly from the jotedars. The farming system, as already noticed, was introduced by Commissioner Mr. Douglas in 1790 during the minority of Maharaja Harendranarayan. The whole of the State was divided into convenient lots and these were let out in farm to the highest bidders, the amount of bid accepted by the State representing the revenue of the mehals covered by the lot. The Ijardars used to collect this revenue from the jotedars and pay the same into the State Treasury. If the revenue thus fixed exceeded that at the last settlement the farmer could claim proportionate enhancement on the jamas last paid by the jotedars.

Ijardari charges.

In addition to the revenue, the jotedars had to pay a twelfth of his jama as the Ijardar's share of profit, and a similar amount for his collection charges. These two charges were called *Ijardari* and *Saranjami*.

Khash mehals.

Such of the mehals as fetched no bid were kept under *khash* management, and the revenue of these mehals used to be collected from the jotedars through State officers called *Sajwals*. The western part of the State, comprising the old Rahimgunj Pargana, as being the latest to come under cultivation, was also kept under *khash* collection. The settlement used to be made annually.

In 1865-66, the Commissioner sanctioned the farm to be given for three years and ordered the letting out of *khash mehal* lands whenever practicable, This last step was evidently taken with a view to put down abuses of *khash* collection under lowly paid officers often of questionable honesty. The term of settlement was subsequently raised to five years.

Evils of the Ijardari system.

This Ijardari system of collection of revenue was attended with many abuses. The Ijaras were not geographically defined, and the jotes comprising an Ijara Mehal sometimes lay scattered over different parts of the State. An Ijaradar could not himself always tell where the jotes that made up his farm were situated. The farmers again were often guilty of great oppressions on the jotedars, whom they sometimes forced to give up their jotes to them and become under-tenants. Most of the lands were farmed out to the ladies of the palace and the persons connected with the administration of the State, and much suffering was caused to the rayats by the exactions of the farmers. To such a pass had things come that even the Maharajas had *Benami Ijara Mehals*, and had no scruples in wringing out as much as could be got from the poor jotedars who were their own subjects. The following extract from Colonel Haughton's report to Government, dated the 27th July 1864, will give a distinct idea of the nature of the abuses under the farming system as he found it :—

"Not long after my arrival at Cooch Behar I observed that none of the Moffussil Talukdars had called upon me. Enquiring into the cause of this my informant observed 'they are all in the town of Cooch Behar.' Further enquiry disclosed a system for which even I was not prepared. Nearly the whole of the Taluks are farmed out *Benami* or in fictitious names by the Ranis, females of the Rajbari, and the Amla ; such is the extent to which this practice of *Benami* is carried by the renters and sub-renters that it is impossible to tell who are the real holders of Taluks. It is quite clear that such a system of deception can be only productive of evil. Even the Raja himself, incredible as it may seem, had a separate *Benami Mehal* establishment for the management of Taluks rented by himself, of which he sought to derive not only his own share of the revenue, but also the middle man's profits."

Survey and Settlement of Land Revenue

With a view to remove the abuses and difficulties which then attended the Ijardari system, Colonel Haughton proposed and carried out a survey of the State under Mr. O'Donell, Deputy Superintendent of Revenue Survey, who was deputed by Government for the purpose. Though fully alive to the abuses which

existed under the farming system, he was not in favour of replacing it by a system of Khash Tehsil. He proposed a measurement by Taluks and that the Taluks should then be offered to the existing farmers after they had been properly demarcated. Colonel Haughen was carried away by his desire to form an opulent middle class. "Here there are," to quote from his report referred to above "none of that middle class who should form the bone and sinews of the country. It appears to me that every effort should be made to improve this state of things, and to produce a class of Talukdars having an interest in the country." Perhaps a far-seeing and able administrator like the Colonel had definite views also on the question of protection of the interest of the rayats. Any how, it was not directly from him that the proposal for a Khashrah measurement and records of right proceeded. The Government of Bengal, however, on receipt of his report declared themselves in favour of a Khashrah measurement and a settlement with the rayats direct.

Amount of revenue obtained.

The Khashrah measurement of the lands of the State was commenced in 1864 in Rahimgunj. Very little progress was made till 1870, when the establishment was considerably strengthened and the operations were concluded in 1876-77. The settlement of revenue was made with the jotedars direct. The amount of revenue secured by this settlement was Rs. 9,38,611, showing an increase of Rs. 5,74,471 over the old jama. As the increased jama under the settlement would have pressed very heavily upon the rayats, if called on to pay the full amount at once, the increment was distributed over five years.

Increase distributed over five years.

Resumption of rent-free and service lands.

The revenue obtained by the settlement of land directly with the jotedars did not, however, amount to the figure given above. A part of it was obtained from the resumption of invalid rent-free tenures, Jaigir lands, and *Andaran* jotes or jotes held by the ladies of the palace. Enquiries were instituted into the validity of all the rent-free tenures, which resulted in the resumption of more than two-thirds of the total quantity of lands so claimed, and the exemption from assessment of about fifty thousand bighas of which the *sunuds* were proved to be genuine.

The number of Jaigirdars was considerably reduced in 1873-74, and the excess lands held by them were afterwards resumed and settled with them in jote right. This brought in a large amount which went to swell the land revenue.

Resumption of *andaran* jotes.

In 1870-71, the ladies of the palace were induced by Colonel Haughton to surrender of their own free will all lands held by them, either Benami or otherwise, including Petbhata jotes and

chukanis, accepting in lieu of them, allowances[126] calculated on the basis of the actual net collections which formed their ostensible income from these lands. It was at first the intention of the authorities to sell off all these lands by auction and credit the proceeds in favour of the State; and some of the resumed jotes were accordingly disposed of in 1874-75. The Government, however, having disapproved the prososal of selling off the Chukanis, they were settled with the Chukanidars in jote right at the Chukani jamas, but otherwise with the raising of the status of the Chukanidars to that of Jotedars. All grades of undertenants in these estates also rose one grade higher. The revenue obtained from these lands was incorporated with the general Land Revenue of the State. The history of these settlements still lives in the expression "Andaran Bajeapti Jote", being the name by which the jotes thus brought into existence are called even at the present time. Although a general re-settlement of the State has since been concluded, most of these jotes are still paying revenue at the Chukani rate.

Introduction of Khash collection system.

As a second remedy for the evils of the Ijardari System, Sir George Campbell, Lieutenant-Governor, introduced the present *Khash Collection System*, under which the revenue is collected directly by the State from the Jotedars, from the 1st April 1872. As, however, the number of jotes was very large, amounting to over 13,000 at the time, and the extent of country also great, it was not possible that the collection of the revenue of the whole State could be done by the Dewan's office at the Sudder. The introduction of the *Khash Tehsil system* necessitated the splitting up of the State into six Tehsil Circles or Sub-divisions, and the jurisdiction of each Sub-division was made conterminous with one of the six Parganas into which the State had been divided after Mr. O'Donell's survey of 1869. The Sub-divisions were named after the Parganas; * only the Sub-division concerned with Pargana Cooch Behar was named the Sudder Sub-division. One of these Sub-divisions, namely, Dinhata, had been in existence since 1867, and its jurisdiction was now revised.

Establishment of Sub-divisions in the muffasil.

*Mekhligunj, Mathabhanga, Lalbazar, Dinhata and Tufangunj

Collection officers.

The Sub-divisions were opened in the beginning[127] of 1872 with a Naib Ahilkar in charge of each. The Dewan had to

[126] "The amount we pay to the Ayes on account of the jotes is Rs. 5,666." Dewan's Annual Report, 1873-74.

[127] These are the dates of the opening of the Sub-divisions:—

Mekhligunj, 1st April 1872; Mathabhanga, 1st May 1872; Lalbazar, 1st May 1872; Dinhata, 1st April 1872; Tufangunj, 1st April 1872.

supervise the work of these Sub-divisional officers and was also to remain in charge of the Sudder Sub-division. He was assisted be a Naib Ahilkar called the Malcutchery Naib Ahilar. The Dewan exercised the powers of a Collector, and the Naib Ahilkars those of Deputy Collectors. For the convenience of the people the Sub-divisional Naib Ahlkars were invested with judicial powers within certain limits.

Naib Ahilkars also vested with judicial powers.

At the end of the first year it was found that the new system of collection worked well and that the number of the sub-divisions might be advantageously reduced. The necessity for making the reduction became also pressing on financial grounds. The consequnce was that the Sub-divisions of Lalbazar and Tufangunj were abolished from the 1st May 1873. Tufangunj, the duties connected with which had hitherto been performed at the Sudder, was added to the Sudder sub-division, and Lalbazar was split up into two portions, one of which was added to Mathabhanga and the other to Dinhata. In making this division of Pargana Lalbazar the old boundary line between Thanas Mathabhanga and Dinhata was restored, and the arrangement was convenient both to the people and the State. A table showing the extent, population and revenue of each Sub-division in 1875-76 is given below: —

Abolition of two Sub-divisions.

Revenue statistics in 1875-1876.

Name of Sub-division.	Area in square miles.	Population.	Number of Jotes.	Number of syrat mehals.	Revenue.	Average population per square mile.	Average revenue per square mile.	Average revenue per head of population.
					Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
Sudder or Cooch Behar ...	499	1,76,527	7,241	299	3,04,403	353	610	1 11 6
Mekhligunj ...	194	81,428	1,594	75	1,09,398	419	563	1 5 6
Mathabhanga ...	343	1,31,078	4,030	144	2,36,645	381	689	1 12 10
Dinhata ...	271	1,43,532	4,692	112	1,77,782	531	658	1 3 9
Total ...	1,307	5,32,565	17,557	630	8,28,228	407·7	634	1 8 10

Thus the incidence of taxation on account of Land Revenue was Rs. 1-8-10 per head of population for the whole State. Although the Sudder was the biggest of the Sub-divisions and brought in the largest amount of revenue, the amounts of revenue per square mile of the country and also per head of population were the greatest in Mathabhanga, and came up to Rs. 689, and Rs. 1-12-10, respectively. Dinhata, though second in respect

Extent of taxation.

of taxation per square mile, bore only Rs. 1-3-9 of revenue per head of its population, and was the most lightly taxed in this respect.

Difficulties in the formation of towjis or revenue-roll.

The first step taken towards the realisation of revenue direct from the jotedars was the preparation of registers of jotes for the different sub-divisions. This was an extremely difficult and complicated piece of work. Hitherto there was no register of jotes; only a ragister of Ijaras was kept in the Malcutchery. The difficulty lay in preparing an exhaustive register and also in apportioning the jotes among the different sub-divisions. It is to be remembered that the Jotewari survey of the State had not yet been finished, and no help could be had from Mr. O'Donell's Revenue Survey papers, which showed only the boundaries of, and were concerned with, the Taluks of the State. Again, the boundaries of Taluks, as fixed by the Revenue Survey, were not often what the people knew them to be, Mr. O'Donell, in his attempt to make the Taluks compact, having often disregarded the popular boundaries and followed the natural and more convenient boundaries instead. The sub-divisions were, moreover, made to correspond with the Parganas which had been fixed by the Revenue Survey only a short time ago, and the people had not yet been accustomed to the new and altered state of things. The locality and position of the jotes according to the old ideas very frequently disagreed with the new ones, and a jote in a particular Taluk under the old notion was often found to belong to another Taluk and sometime to a different Pargana. This difficulty had to be encountered in the preparation of Registers of jotes, and the transfers of jotes from one sub-division to another became often necessary. The following passage taken from the Dewan's Report on the Administration of the Revenue Department for the year 1872-73, will clearly explain the difficulties encountered at the time :—

"Before we could collect revenue from the jotedars it was necessary to prepare a register showing the name of, and the annual rent payable by, every jotedar in the Raj. Hitherto the Malcutchery kept simply a Register of Ijaras, and it had nothing to do with the jotedars. But fortunately the Ijardars had been made to file *Atshattas* or Jama-papers, and these had to be collected and carefully examined. Under the old system one Taluk was very often divided into different *dehas* or parts, and these *dehas* were included in different Ijara lots. There were, moreover, different Taluks bearing the same name in different parts of the Raj; and to add to confusion the Revenue Surveyor had made the Taluks shewn in his maps as compact as possible by disregarding the old inconvenient bound-

aries and putting down new boundaries in their place. In many cases jotes included in one Taluk were split up and the parts included in different Taluks. As it was absoutely necessary for me to see that no jote was lost sight of, I was obliged to stick to the papers in my office and to make lists of jotes included in each Ijara Mehal, and to distribute them amongst the different Sub-divisions. Each Sub-division was in fact a Pargana, as defined by the Revenue Surveyor. The boundaries of the Pargana, though shewn in the maps, were not known to the people, and they did not often agree with the old boundaries of the Taluks. For these and for other reasons referred to above the jotes which should have been shewn in the register of one Sub-division, were included in the register of another. The consequence was that many transfers had to be made during the year and the papers altered. In many cases enquiries had also to be made about the jamas actually payable, as the Ijardar's papers could not be depended upon."

In this way the first Jotewar towjis of the Malcutchery were prepared and the amount of labour and care that had to be brought to bear upon them, it is impossible now even to conceive.

Abolition of Ijardari and Saranjami charges.

With the adoption of the khash collection system, although the State had to incur an additional expenditure for the establishment of the Tehsil kutcheries, the jotedars were exempted from the payment of the Ijardari and Saranjami charges. The last Ijardars were not, however forgotten. Their cases was a hard one; they had been thrown out of power by a sudden change in the policy of the government. When the Ijardari system ceased to have effect large sums were kept in arrears by the jotedars, and it would have been extremely difficult, if not impossible, for the Ijardars to realise them by regular suits. The arears were thus summarily realised by the State by a special temporary establishment placed under a Tehsildar at a monthly cost of Rs. 130. The establishment was paid from fees charged at the rate of 12 per cent. on the actual collection, the surplus of the fees left after paying the establishment being credited in favour of the State. The following extract from the Dewan's report of 1873-74 furnishes the interesting details of the subject:—

Summary realisation by State of arrears due to Ijardars.

"When the Government orders on the subject of the abolition of the Ijardari system were made known, it was generally understood that Colonel Haughton would render some assistance to the Ijardars by enabling them to realize summarily the arrears due from the jotedars. They stood in very great need of such assistance, as the sudden change in their position had thrown their

affairs into great confusion. The Jotedars did not care to secure their good will by paying down arrears, as the then existing relation between them and their Ijardars was soon to be put on end to. The Mahajans also grew distrustful, and began to be anxious to realize the money already borrowed from them by the Ijardars for satisfying the demands of the State. The orders authorizing the Malcutchery to realize the arrears were subsequently received,and the abolished Ijardars filed their Bakeya-papers. It appears that the total amount shewn as due was Rs. 1,43,944, and the number of persons from whom this amount was to be realised was 3,749. The procedure which was to be observed was that notices were to be first issued; if the defaulters failed to pay, processes of attachment and sale were next to be had recourse to. If the defaulters appeared and raised any objections, these were to be fully enquired into and decided before the balances could be realized."

Demand and collection of Land Revenue from 1864-65 to 1883-84.

The settlement in Rahimgunj had effect from 1868-69, and was afterwards revised from 1876-77. In other parts of the State the settlement jamas began to be realised progressively from 1871-72. Some revenue was also obtained from the Syrat Mehals. The following statement showing the annual demand and collection of land revenue from 1864-65 to 1883-84, the year of His Highness' Installation, may not be uninteresting :—

YEAR.	DEMAND.			COLLECTION.
	Current.	Arrear.	Total.	
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
1864-65	3,32,407	1,73,849	5,06,256	3,24,889
1865-66	3,16,955	1,62,506	4,79,461	3,05,102
1866-67	2,56,941	1,74,356	4,31,297	2,77,956
1867-68	3,92,675	1,49,795	5,42,470	3,68,620
1868-69	3,61,288	1,81,777	5,43,065	3,57,549
1869-70	3,95,656	3,31,943	7,27,599	3,57,659
1870-71	4,16,730	2,16,752	6,33,482	4,06,398
1871-72	4,14,035	1,94,915	6,08,950	4,31,222
1872-73	4,35,370	1,68,454	6,03,824	4,48,293

YEAR.	DEMAND.			COLLECTION.
	Current.	Arrear.	TOTAL.	
1873-74	4,84,206	1,79,856	6,64,062	4,82,317
1874-75	5,67,508	2,33,268	8,00,776	6,28,125
1875-76	8,28,228	4,41,076	12,69,304	7,81,684
1876-77	9,16,188	5,03,129	14,19,317	9,74,809
1877-78	9,63,301	4,23,897	13,93,198	9,10,622
1878-79	9,83,818	4,52,748	14,36,566	9,36,397
1879-80	9,83,392	4,66,054	14,49,446	10,42,758
1880-81	9,78,511	3,99,166	13,27,677	9,44,361
1881-82	9,71,139	3,57,705	13,28,844	9,64,861
1882-83	9,67,582	3,25,764	12,93,346	9,43,699
1883-84	9,63,630	2,99,775	12,63,405	9,58,779

Gradual improvement of revenue and collection.

The statement given above very clearly testifies to the precarious nature of the revenue and its collection up to the year 1870-71, till which time the Ijardari system had prevailed. From the year following (1871-72) both the demand and the collection show a steadiness, which is as much attributable to the better system of collections as to that of the assessment. The new settlement fixed jamas for twelve years, a sufficiently long period, and placed the rights of the tenantry on a sure footing. With the introduction of the Khash Tehsil system, the oppressive methods of realisation of revenue adopted by the farmers naturally disappeared, and the jotedars, though under the necessity of paying an enhancement of revenue, enjoyed perfect immunity from the collection charges and other nameless cesses and *abwabs* which the Ijardars exacted from them. "One great advantage," observes Mr. Dalton in his Retrospect, "of the Khash Tehsil system, is the closer relationship in which it brings the Joteder with the officers of the State, their revenue being paid directly into the Sub-divisional State Treasury chest, and not as formerly collected at their doors by the farmer's *gomashtas*. It is even yet no uncommon thing to meet a Cooch Behari of 40 years old, who has never been outside of his own taluk except to the neighbouring thana, more or less upon compulsion.

Litigation may be said to do more in this way than even the Khas Tehsil, but the fact of being entitled to pay his revenue direct lends a dignity to the jotedar, in his own opinion, which he did not before possess. It is remarkable that if you ask a Chukanidar or any other sub-tenant what he is, he will answer 'a rayot;' but a Jotedar will generally say 'I am a Jotedar.' Sometimes a Chukanidar will call himself a Jotedar, probably because his father or grand-father could boast of a position from which he has fallen."

Slight falling off due to resumption of land and diluvian.

It is true that from the year 1879-80 the current demand of land revenue began to fall off, but that was after the maximum of the settlement increase had been reached, and owing to the necessity of granting reductions of jama an account of diluvion and resumption of land for roads, and also for the relinquishment of bad jotes. In a country like Cooch Behar, decrease of revenue for these causes is inevitable and must always take place unless there be large annual settlements of new lands to make up the loss.

Patit Charcha settlement.

With the change of the constitution after the Installation of His Highness, the management of revenue became an independent charge of the Dewan. The settlement of the State, successfully concluded under the supervision of the British Government, expired at the close of 1883-84. His Highness, however, did not consider it expedient to commence his rule with a general enhancement of the existing rates, although the jotes were open to reassessment. The term of the last settlement was under his orders extended to 5 years from 1291 B.S.; but all *patit* lands, since brought under cultivation, were ordered to be assessed at full rates. With this object operations were commenced at once and the *Patit Chracha* settlement was concluded in 1886-87. The increase obtained by the assessment of *patit* lands amounted to about Rs. 66,000.

General resettlement of the State

The five years' extension of the last settlement expired in 1888-89. Just after the conclusion of the Patit Charcha operations, a general resettlement of the State had been taken in hand. This was concluded, so far as the greater portion of the country was concerned, before 1894. The resettlement in the remaining portions was finished by the end of 1898-99. The details of these operations will appear hereafter. The increase obtained by the resettlement of the State amounted to Rs. 2,77,462. This increase was not charged at once; but to avoid the hardship of a sudden large enhancement, it was distributed over five years where it exceeded 20 per cent of the old jama.

The resettlement of the entire State did not, as can be expected, take effect from the same date ; but as the re-assessment of each Pargana was concluded the revised jama was entered in the Towji. The progressive enhanced jama began to be charged from 1889-90, and the maximum increase for the whole State was reached in 1898-99, with few minor exceptions, such as the eastern portion of Tufangunj called Bilat Bishguri, nine Taluks in the west of Gird Chawra, and Taluks Daikhata and Jaridharla Nadi. Their resettlement had taken effect only from the previous year, and the maximum increase will be attained in them in 1902-03. Resettlement of different tracts.

With the general progress of the State and developement of its trade, the condition of revenue of the Syrat mehals—Hâts, ferries, and fisheries—also became vastly improved. The syrat mehals thus fetched better values than before, and every fresh settlement brought in an enhanced revenue. As already noticed, the jalas or fisheries are leased out every fourth year and the Hâts or markets and the ghâts or ferries every sixth year. The subjoined table, giving at the years specified the average of the preceeding five years' revenue, very clearly shows what marked improvement has taken place in the Syrat revenue after the Installation, the amount having increased from Rs. 46,000 in 1882-83 to Rs. 72,182 in 1899-1900:— Improvement of Syrat revenue.

YEAR.	Mal Syrat.	Debutter Syrat.	Total.
	Rs	Rs	Rs
1882-83	42,333	3,775	46,108
1887-88	44,398	3,698	48,096
1892-93	58,555	3,677	62,332
1897-98	68,095	3,316	71,407
19899-100	68,989	3,193	72,182

With the conclusion of the resettlement and the increase of work in the Suddar Sub-division owing to the increase in the number of jotes, a separate Tehsil office for Pargana Tufangunj, to which was added the backward tract in the north of Pargana Cooch Behar called Gird Chawra, was opened on the 15th June 1892 at the Suddar ; and it was placed in charge of the Settlement Separate Tehsil office for Tufangunj.

Naib Ahilkar, who was vested with the necessary powers for the realization of revenue.

Tufangunj Sub-division.

The new arrangement having given satisfactory results, the head-quarters of the Tufangunj office were removed to Fulbari on the right bank of the Dipa-Raidak and placed under a Naib Ahilkar, who was vested with the Civil, Criminal, and Registration powers, like other Sub-divisional officers. For the sake of conveniences, the jurisdictions of the Suddar and Tufangunj Sub-divisions were also revised. Balarampore and a few adjacent Taluks were included in the Sub-division of Tufangunj, and Gird Chowra was restored to the Suddar.

The Sub-divisions in 1897-98.

The extent and revenue of each Sub-division in 1897-98 will appear from the following statement:—

Name of Sub-division.	Extent.		Land Revenue.	Remarks.
	Number of Taluks	Area in square miles.		
			Rs	
Suddar	263	284	2,67,342	
Tufangunj	126	223	1,53,408	
Mekhligunj ...	237	197	2,06,983	
Mathabhanga ...	267	334	3,82,990	
Dinhata	309	269	3,05,381	
Total ...	1,202	1,307	13,16,104	

Settlement of *Khash* lands.

Besides the re-settled tracts there were small patches of khash lands situated all over the State. These were the old sites of Háts or Bunders, schools and cattle-pounds, &c. which had long ceased to be required for their original purposes, those institutions having ceased to exist. There were also some dried beds of Syrat mehals, or unsettled *char* lands. The extent of these was ascertained in the course of the re-settlement operations. In 1897-98, their settlement was taken up. To this was added the work of survey and assessment of some Jalkar mehals, the beds of which

had been upheaved by the earthquake of 1897. These settlements, which were concluded in the following year, brought in a revenue amounting to Rs. 3,701, chargeable from 1898-99.

Resumption of Jaigirs.

In 1898-99, some Jaigirdar servants attached to the Duar Office, Bakshikhana, Toshakhana and the Dharmadhakhya department, were replaced by paid servants, and 203 jaigirs held by them were resumed. They were settled with the former Jaigirdars or their under-tenants in jote right. This brought in Rs. 6,801 in the shape of annual revenue, which was realised from 1899-1900.

Annual settlements by Sub-divisional officers.

All this time the Sub-divisional officers made settlements of the jotes which from time to time had become khash on account of resumption or relinquishment. They also settled many *char* lands in their jurisdiction. This brought in some revenue every year. But this increase was nearly counter-balanced by the reductions of jama which had to be granted every year on account of diluvian, resumption of lands for public purposes, and relinquishment or resumption of bad jotes.

Condition of revenue in 1899-00.

The result of all these various settlements was that at the end of 1899-1900 the net revenue derived from the lands including the Syrat mehals amounted to Rs. 13,21,391. This shewed an increase of Rs. 3,57,761 on the land revenue in 1883-84, which had been left at Rs. 9,63,630 by the British Administration. The increase under two heads—Jotes and Syrat Mehals—are separately shewn below:—

Mehal.	1883-84.	1899-1900.	Increase.
	Rs	Rs	Rs
Jotes	9,18,141	12,48,503	3,30,365
Syrat mehals ...	45,489	72,885	27,396
Total ...	9,63,630	13,21,391	3,57,761

Demands and collections of Land Revenue from 1884-85 to 1899-00.

The statement given below shows the demands and collections of Land Revenue from 1884-85, the year after His Highness' Installation, to 1899-1900. It will be seen what great progress the State has made year by year in point of revenue and its collection during the last 16 years.

YEAR.	DEMAND.			COLLECTION.
	Current.	Arrear.	Total.	
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
1884-85	9,66,408	2,58,009	12,24,417	9,06,684
1885-86	10,08,055	3,31,735	13,39,790	9,31,367
1886-87	10,22,712	3,95,900	14,18,614	9,92,454
1887-88	10,25,952	4,15,830	14,38,782	9,57,216
1888-89	10,25,521	3,88,756	14,14,277	9,46,982
1889-90	11,50,532	4,54,560	15,05,092	10,25,773
1890-91	11,05,152	4,75,423	15,80,575	10,26,381
1891-92	11,62,333	5,48,982	17,11,315	11,51,134
1892-93	12,12,620	5,43,689	17,56,309	12,60,616
1893-94	12,60,190	4,05,067	16,65,257	12,83,033
1894-95	12,99,711	3,45,590	16,45,301	13,52,472
1895-96	13,02,037	2,57,644	15,57,681	13,29,532
1896-97	13,07,414	2,06,655	15,14,067	12,72,820
1897-98	13,16,104	2,30,485	15,46,587	13,37,648
1898-98	13,11,843	1,61,000	14,72,843	13,93,830
1899-1900	13,21,391	73,098	13,94,489	13,41,168

Revenue-paying estates.

The revenue-paying estates in this State are called 'Jotes.' They are of two descriptions: *Mokarari* or permanently settled, and *Sarasary* or temporarily settled. Besides these, there are some holdings situated in the towns and *bunders*, which are called occupancy holdings and are far inferior to the *sarasary* jotes, so far as the rights attached to them are concerned.

Kists.

Formerly, there were four kists for the payment of revenue, one of which fell due on the 15th Ashar, 15th Aswin, 15th Paus and 15th Chaitra. Jotes carrying a jama exceeding Rs. 30 paid the revenue in four equal instalments on these dates; those which had a jama up to Rs. 10, had to pay in one instalment on the 15th

Aswin ; and the revenue of the jotes with jamas varying between Rs. 10 and Rs. 30, was payable in two instalments, on the 15th Ashar and 15th Paus. For the convenience of the Jotedars these kists were revised by Act I of 1898, called the 'Kist Act,' by which the number of kists for the four kists mehals was reduced to three, payable on the 15th Sravan, 15th Kartik and 15th Falgun. The revenue of Jotes with two kists under the old rules was made payable on the 15th Sravan and the 15th Falgun, and that of jotes with one kist, on the 15th Kartik.

Kist Act of 1898.

The old law regulating the realisation of arrears of revenue was contained in a Robakari of Colonel Haughton, dated the 17th August 1864. It was generally based on the Revenue Sale Law (Act XI of 1859) of British India. The sun-set law was not, however, enforced, and a notice was published on the defaulting jote before sale. The Sub-divisional officers, who held the sales, had the power to postpone the sale and grant time to the defaulting jotedar to pay the arrears. In 1897, the Revenue Sale Law of Cooch Behar (Act V of 1897) was passed, whereby the power of granting time to the defaulters was withdrawn from the Sub-divisional officers, the publication of the notice of sale on the jote was stopped, and a notice on the under-tenants, forbidding payment of rent to the defaulting jotedar, was made proclaimable in the principal Hât in the neighbourhood. Although this law enforced the stringent provisions of the sun-set law, yet an opportunity was allowed to the defaulters to pay down the arrears before the sale, or redeem the jote after the sale, on the payment of a small penalty and interest. The jotedars enjoy every facility in realising rent from their under-tenants under the Sub-infeudation Act of 1889 which makes it obligatory for the tenant to pay the amount decreed for rent within 30 days of the decree, on penalty of the lapsing of the holding and summary ejectment of the rayat.

Old law regarding realisation of arrears of revenue.

Revenue Sale Law of 1889.

The demands of a public nature used to be formerly realized like arrears of revenue by the attachment and sale of the debtor's property, or by his imprisonment, or both. A law was enacted in 1899 (Act II of 1899) for the better realisation of these dues. In the same year the priority of the State demand over that of private parties was, by the revival of an old practice, formally declared and codified by Act IV of 1899.

Public Demands Recovery and Priority of State Demands Acts.

The steady improvement in the collection of Land Revenue since the Installation of His Highness, sufficiently set forth in the table given on page 366 was no doubt secured by the operation of some of these enactments ; yet it was in no small degree due to the improved method of control and check and the

Improvement in collection.

better regulation of the details of work backed by strict supervision and close inspection.

The figures given below will enable a better examination of the result, as they show the quinquennial current demands and collections, and the percentages of the latter on the former:—

YEARS.	Current demand	Collection.	Percentage of collection on current demand.
1864-69	16,60,266	16,34,116	98·43
1869-74	21,45,997	21,25,889	99·06
1874-79	42,59,043	42,31,637	99·34
1879-84	48,64,254	48,54,458	99·79
1884-89	50,48,648	46,34,703	91·79
1889-94	58,90,827	57,46,937	97·55
1894-1900(six years)	71,58,500	80,27,520	112·14

Revission of revenue

Although the State dues were successfully realized, the jotedars were not deprived of the benefit of the policy of kindness inaugurated by the British Administrators. The case of the poor and incapable has always received a sympathetic and merciful treatment, and His Highness has been annually moved to remit and write off no small amounts which deserved remission. During the twenty years of British Administration a sum of Rs. 6,48,352 appears to have written off on various grounds. In the course of the last sixteen years of His Highness' rule, the remissions granted amounted to about Rs. 5,99,000.

Collecting Officers.

The officers employed on the collection of revenue are called 'Naib Ahilkars,' whose status is similar to that of the Deputy Magistrates and Deputy Collectors of British India. In works connected with the collection of revenue they exercise the powers of a Collector. In 1886, a grade of officers under the designation of 'Sub-Naib Ahilkars' was created. They occupy the same position as the Sub-Deputy Magistrates and Collectors of Bengal, but enjoy larger judicial powers. They work as assistants to the Naib Ahilkars.

There are four grades of the Naib Ahilkars and two of the Sub-Naib Ahilkars. The Malkutchery Naib Naib Ahilkar, who is also the Treasury Officer, is the senior officer among the Naib Ahilkars, and is head assistant of the Dewan.

The Nezarat.

Old process-serving arrangement.

In old times the duty of serving processes appears to have been performed by Burkundajes who also did other duties of a miscellaneous nature connected with the administration. Afterwards a Nazir was appointed for each court, who had under him a number of *ticca* peons for serving the processes. The fees used to be realised from the parties to the suits in cash, a halt of which went to the State, and with the other half the peons were remunerated. The peons were thus the servants more of the public than of the State. The exercise of control over these men could not be adequate, the nazirs were not always reliable, and the system did not work well.

Establishment of the Nezarat.

In August 1871, this system was abolished, and the present Nezarat, with one responsible Nazir to supervise the whole establishment, Naib Nazirs for the different courts, and paid peons of different grades, was organised.

Grades of peons.

The number of peons orginally sanctioned was 140. On account of the increase of settlement work, 10 *ticca* peons were afterwards sanctioned in January 1873. There were three grades of salaries of the peons, and in 1872-73 the following was the sanctioned scale of strength of the Nezarat :—

Grades.	Number of peons.
First grade and good peons on Rs. 7 ...	... 20
Second grade on Rs. 6	... 40
Third grade on Rs. 5	... 90
Total	... 150

Sub-divisional Nezarat.

No special number was sanctioned for each Sub-division. The number of peons actually required was sent to each office from the head-quarters. The peons were placed under the accountants in the sub-divisions.

Besides the work of serving processes, the peons had to be in attendance in the courts and guard some of the offices. Besides, they had to do, as at present, various duties of a miscellaneous nature.

Effect of the change.

The effect of the change was thus described by the Dewan in 1873 :—"All our orders have to be executed by the Nezarat and all suitors have to come in contact with this department; the improvements introduced have, therefore, proved beneficial to the public. At the same time work is now done economically, and there is a large surplus credited in favour of the State. We have also got an intelligent and active officer with a large number of

paid subordinates to assist us in the performance of the various executive duties."

Separate Nezarats for different departments.

The Nezarat was under the Dewan. It had, however, to perform the duties of the Civil and Criminal departments also. The heads of these offices had no proper control over the working of the department, and this gave rise to complaints. This was noticed by Mr. Smith, Deputy Commissioner, as early as 1873-74, who thus remarked in the Annual Administration Report for that year: "The Dewani and the Fauzdari Ahilkars complain that as Dewan is the Head of the Nezarat Department, they have no control over the Naib Nazirs attached to their courts. This feature of the new system will probably require amendment."

It was not, however, till a year after the Installation that any thing was done towards this direction. In 1884-85, the peons were distributed amongst the different departments, and a definite number was fixed for each. The Nazir, however, continued to be at the head of the process-serving establishments of all the departments. Separate Naib Nazirs were placed in immediate charge of the different department.

In 1897-98, His Highness was pleased, on the recommendation jointly made by the Dewan and the Civil and Sessions Judge, to grant an increase of one rupee to the pay of the peons all round. The designation of the good-peons was changed into Bakshi and their pay was raised from Rs. 7 to Rs. 10. In the following year the Nazir was relieved from the charge of the Civil Nezarat for which a separate Nazir was appointed.

Canoongoes.

Creation of the posts of Canoongoes.

It has already been noticed that, as the settlement operations progressed, the jamas assessed by them began to be charged in the Towjis from 1871-72. Very often it so happened that the Kabulyats were not received during the year from which the settlement took effect, so that when the settlement increase had to be entered in the books, some arrears for the past year had to be brought forward in the accounts. The jamas chargeable in a year could not thus be always realised during the year and had to be kept back till the following year or years. The settlement increase itself naturally pressed upon the jotedars; some designing men also withheld payment; these circumstances added to the difficulty of the collecting officers. Arrears thus went on accumulating year after year, and in many cases it become necessary to enquire into the condition of the defaulting jotes as well as of the jotedars before rigorously pressing the State claim or recommending a remission. A class of responsible officers was thus wanted for rendering assistance in these matters by holding personal enquiries in the moffusil.

Boundary disputes and settlement of khash lands also demanded efficient service, and enhanced the necessity already felt. Sir Richard Temple, Lieutenant-Governor, was pleased to suggest the creation of some posts of Canoongoes after his visit in 1875. It was under these circumstances that the post of the Canoongoe was created in 1878-79.

Duties of Canoongoes.

The following extract from the Dewan's Note on the Canoongoe scheme, dated the 4th August 1877, definitely sets forth the duties fixed for the Canoongoes at the time :—

"The Canoongoes are wanted for assisting the revenue officers in the following matters :—

(1) To try to bring waste lands under cultivation.

(2) To see that the boundaries of the State are not transgressed.

(3) To make enquiries in cases in which remissions of revenue have to be granted.

(4) To enquire about property belonging to defaulters owing large sums to the State when the arrears cannot be realised by the sale of the defaulting jotes.

(5) To make enquiries respecting khash and relinquished jotes.

(6) To report on changes caused by rivers.

(7) To see that our Hâts are fully maintained, and try to develope the commerce of the country by establishing new Hâts.

(8) To take up lands for new roads.

(9) To make enquiries about persons who have got rent-free lands, or lands assessed at half rates, for their lives, and take steps for settling such lands when the present occupants die.

(10) To look after the Sâl and Shishu forests and try to plant trees on khash lands.

(11) To collect statistics.

(12) To perform other miscellaneous duties as necessity arises."

It was also in contemplation at the time to have the transfer of jotes and under-tenures registered in the settlement papers by these officers.

But subsequent events made it unnecessary to carry this scheme into effect. The term of the settlement was drawing to a close after which a similar object could be attained by a revision of the settlement. As a matter of fact the Patit Charcha operations were availed of for the correction of the records. The question of registration of transfers was again taken up after the conclusion

of the re-settlement, but it had to be kept back on financial grounds.

Six canoongoes were appointed during 1878-79, one for each of the six Parganas of the State. Two of them were abolished in 1889-90, but one was afterwards re-appointed in 1894.

In 1899, the post of a third grade Canoongoe was abolished, and with the saving thus effected three *amins* were permanently appointed to assist the Canoongoes in survey work, for which money had hitherto to be provided under *ticca* establishment every year.

Assistant Canoongoes.

Two Assistant Canoongoeships were created in 1881-82 and conferred on two of His Highness' relatives.

In the course of the settlement operations that followed, the services of some of the canoongoes were utilised for checking the work of the field establishment. The first grade Canoongoe was placed in charge of a Pargana as a Settlement Naib Ahilkar during the re-settlement. In fact all in all works of a special nature, such as Census, Famine Relief, &c., these officers have always rendered useful service.

(2) Excise Revenue.

Old Abkari system.

One of the important sub-heads of the Revenue is Excise. Formerly, the excise revenue used to be derived from two sources: Abkari Mehals and Mushkarat Mehals. The Abkari Mehals included all rights connected with the manufacture and sale of country spirits, while the Mashkarat Mehals had reference to the sale of opium and ganja. These mehals used to be farmed out by the Dewan to the highest bidder. The purchaser of the Abkari Mehals enjoyed a monopoly for the whole State, and he and his sub-lessees could open shops wherever they pleased, and brew liquor of any strength they liked. Strange as it may now appear, the revenue derived from this auction sale was very small; it amounted to Rs. 86 only in 1864. On account of this nominal revenue the farmer could sell his liquor cheap. The number of grog shops was also large. All this put a premium on drunkenness, and we actually find Mr. Beveridge noticing in 1866 that the complaints were common that drunkenness was daily on the increase.

Opium.

The Poppy used to be grown and opium manufactured in the State under former Maharajas. The cultivators had to sell the produce to the farmer of the Mushkarat Mehals at a price fixed by the latter. As very little supervision was exercised over the cultivators, they could retain large quantities of opium in their

possession. This lax system was very favourable for the extensive use of opium. The Government had under its consideration the question of control of the manufacture of the drug and of poppy in the State from as far back as 1822. But owing to the limitedness of the cultivation and other causes nothing positive was done until 1867, when Colonel Haughton prohibited the cultivation of poppy in Cooch Behar under specified penalties, on the Government agreeing to supply the drug to the State at cost price which was fixed at Rs. 7-4 per seer. [128] The State realised a duty at Rs. 22 a seer. No stipulation was made as to the rate at which opium should be retailed within Cooch Behar, but it was probably understood, if not expressly stated, that the State officers would be guided by the rules in force in British territory, so as to avoid underselling or being undersold by the licensed vendors beyond the frontiers.

Ganja

In the case of Ganja the farmer formerly made his own arrangements for procuring the drug from Rangpur, the Government realising the duty on the quantity purchased by him. On representation being made to Government that the Maharaja was entitled to levy duty on the ganja consumed within his own territory, authority was given in the middle of 1871 to procure Ganja at cost price from Rajshahi.[129] The State has since got its own *goladars* as in the Government districts. A very inferior sort of ganja was also often grown by the people near their own houses ; this practice was stopped long ago. The whole of the duty in the case of both opium and ganja now goes to the State as revenue, no royalty being charged by Government on what they sell to the State.

Introduction of the Excise system in 1869.

In 1869, the Government Excise system was introduced into the State and an Abkari Daroga was appointed under the Dewan, an officer being selected who had experience in Government districts. Shortly after this the present Dewan Rai Calica Doss Dutt Bahadur C.I.E., assumed charge of the Dewan's office, and under him the Excise department was fully organised, and its revenues have since continued to expand steadily up to the present time.

Distillery system.

After the promulgation of Government rules in the State, a distillery was opened at Cooch Behar, in September 1869 ; a second was afterwards opened at Balarampur in July 1870. But the people of the Mekhliganj Sub-division, which is much nearer to Jalpaiguri than Cooch Behar, who bought country spirit, could get

[128] Para 11 of the Resolution of the Government of Bengal, dated the 17th November 1866, on the Administration Report of Cooch Behar for 1865-66.

[129] Administration Report of Cooch Behar for 1874-75, Excise Department, para 4.

it cheaper in Jalpaiguri than in any shop in the State drawing its supply from the distillery at Cooch Behar. Very often, moreover, our shop-keepers in Mekhligunj found it profitable to procure country spirit secretly from the Jalpaiguri vendors. The consequence was that large quantities of country spirit manufactured in Jalpaiguri used to be illicitly imported into Mekhligunj. A distillery was, therefore, opened at Mekhligunj in 1874-75. From that time Mekhligunj became the centre of an Excise division of the State, while Cooch Behar was the centre of the other. Both these circles were under the Dewan, and were directly managed by Naib Ahilkar of Mekhligunj in the case of the Mekhligunj circle, and by the Excise Daroga in the case of the Suddar circle.

Formation of the Mekhligunj circle.

The Central distillery system was abolished in favour of Outstills from the commencement of 1879-80, after the same change had taken place in Bengal, and the Outstill system was introduced in the State.

Excise Officer.

In 1892-93, the designation of Excise Daroga was changed into 'Excise Officer'. On the retirement of the Excise Officer in 1899, the post was abolished, and the de-centralisation of the administration was effected. The Naib Ahilkars of other sub-divisions were vested with excise powers like the Naib Ahilkar of Mekhligunj, and each sub-division henceforth become an independent Excise circle, as it was an independent Revenue district.

Excise Settlement.

Formerly, the Naib Ahilkar of Mekhligunj used to make the Excise settlement at his head-quarters, and afterwards obtain the sanction of the Dewan. Since the above scheme was adopted, the annual settlements have been made at the Sudder by the Dewan, with the assistance of the Sub-divisional officers, who come to the Sudder on the occasion.

The following table shows that since the institution of an Excise Department in 1869 the Excise revenue has steadily increased, although the use of drugs and spirits has received every possible discouragement at the hands of the authorities :—

Year	Revenue	Average of revenue for 5 years.
	Rs.	Rs.
1865-66	12	
1866-67	2,337	
1867-68	5,645	
1868-69	13,721	
1869-70	15,798	7,503

Year			Revenue	Average of revenue for 5 years.
1870-71	...	...	22,900	
1871-72	...	...	31,230	
1872-73	...	...	34,665	
1873-74	...	...	36,732	
1874-75	...	...	40,088	**33,123**
1875-76	...	...	44,114	
1876-77	...	...	45,701	
1877-78	...	...	48,819	
1878-79	...	...	52,649	
1879-80	...	...	51,751	**49,807**
1880-81	...	...	59,223	
1881-82	...	...	62,635	
1882-83	...	...	63,402	
1883-84	...	...	65,002	
1884-85	...	...	69,152	**65,883**
1885-86	...	...	64,939	
1886-87	...	...	66,733	
1887-88	...	...	64,312	
1888-89	...	...	62,226	
1889-90	...	...	67,110	**65,064**
1890-91	...	...	75,260	
1891-92	...	...	74,384	
1892-93	...	...	72,426	
1893-94	...	...	82,358	
1894-95	...	...	82,224	**77,350**
1895-96	...	...	82,514	
1896-97	...	...	87,613	
1897-98	...	...	76,135	
1898-99	...	...	85,635	
1899-1900	...	...	87,117	**83,802**

The spirit of the Excise law of British India (Act VII of 1878, as ammended by Act I of 1883.) is followed in this State.

(3) STAMP REVENUE.

Stamps introduced by Maharaja Narendra narayan.

Before the time of Maharaja Narendranarayan Stamp paper was not in use in the Cooch Behar Courts. Instead of stamps there was in vogue a system of charging fees on cases instituted, under the name of "Institution fees." This used to yield between 6,000 and 7,000 Narani Rupees a year. The introduction of

stamps was a reform effected by the late Maharaja who passed a Stamp Act on the 25th Magh 1268 B.E., corresponding with 1861.

Stamp-officer.

There was a Superintendent of Stamp, when the Act was first introduced; but afterwards this office was abolished as a separate establishment, and the sale of stamps was made over to the Duar Muktear. It was, however, subsequently found inconvenient to sell stamps from the palace, and in 1865 Mr. Beveridge, Deputy Commissioner, transferred the charge of the office to the officer in charge of the *Nikasi Adalat* or the Account Office, and an allowance of Rs. 25 was granted to the officer in charge for his services. Hitherto stamps used to be sold by the State by retail. After the transfer of the stamp office from the hands of the Duar Muktear to the Nikasi officer, stamp vendors were appointed. In the latter part of 1868, the post of the Superintendent of Stamps was revived, however, only to be again abolished on the 1st November 1872. The duties of the post were then transferred to the Treasury office, the charge of the Treasury having devolved upon the Dewan since September of that year.

Different kinds of stamps.

No adhesive stamps have ever been introduced in Cooch Behar. The stamps in use in the State are of the description of "Impressed Stamps." Previous to the year 1876, there were only two kinds of Stamp papers in use, namely, General stamps and Peon-fee or Court-fee Stamps. The former were used both for the writing of documents and for filing in the Courts; and the latter were filed in suits for the peon's fee for serving processes. All these stamps had circular red impressions. On the proposal of the Dewan the Commissioner sanctioned the manufacture of documentary stamps with blue impressions on the 12th April 1876. These stamps were issued from the beginning of May next. By May 1876, therefore, three different kinds of stamps came to be in use in the State, namely, Judicial, Documentary and Court-fee.

Judicial and Court-fee.

Documentary Stamps.

Copying-fee stamps.

Copying-fee stamps with green impressions were introduced in 1884-85. Formerly, there was no special stamp for the preparation of copies which used to be made on the ordinary Judicial stamp papers of the value of eight annas. In 1890-91, on the recommendation of the Civil Judge, ruled paper, with 150 compartments on each page, was introduced for this purpose. For authenticated copies ruled eight anna Judicial stamps were used. As a necessary reform four anna copying-fee stamps also began to be manufactured from this time.

Cartridge paper.

In the same year (1890-91) the use of ordinary paper by suitors in the courts of the State was stopped, and pice-Cartridge-paper was introduced for taking its place. This paper was also

supplied with ruled compartments for use in connection with the preparation of unauthenticated copies.

Manufacture of stamps.

Up to the end of 1872 the stamp papers used to be manufactured at Cooch Behar and a system of stamping by hand was in vogue. In 1872, Colonel Haughton indented stamp papers from England, and a supply of stamps was received from that country in December of that year. Papers of values higher than eight rupees were not, however, brought from England, as the consumption of these stamps was not very large and the demand could be met by local manufacture. These stamps were prepared in Cooch Behar, and there was a *Chhepta-kar* or printer attached to the Stamp office, who enjoyed a Jaigir. The stamps began to be printed by the State press after its transfer to Cooch Behar, under the superintendence of the Treasury Officer.

New dies.

The old stamp dies having proved unfit for further use, a set of new dies bearing the Cooch Behar Coat of Arms, which is still in use, was procured from England and used from the 1st March 1886. Old stamps in the hands of the vendors and private parties were received back till the end of the month, and new stamps were issued in lieu of them.

Amendment of Stamp Law.

The Stamp Law of 1268 B.E., was four months after its passing amended on the 29th Jaistha 1269, and penalties for the breach of the Stamp Law were inserted in the Code. A further amendment of the law was made in April 1866, on the abolition of the Narani coinage, regarding the mode of commutation of the value of stamps from Narani to Government rupees, and also in regard to the value of stamps used in criminal courts and in miscellaneous proceedings in other courts and offices.

Special provisions.

In August 1871, the *ad valorem* duty on petitions of appeal from a modified decree was ruled to be regulated by the amount of the decree and not by the amount of the original claim. On the following year 1872, the practice of filing two or more stamp papers of the aggregate stamp duty leviable on a plaint was stopped, and it was ordered that only one piece of paper of the full requisite value should be used. In August 1877, the law regarding the filing of copy of the *khâta* on a stamp paper, where the suit was based on a *khâta*, along with the plaint was promulgated.

Settlement of rent.

In 1891, the settlement of rent was made compulsory to be on stamp paper within the limit of the Stamp Law.

Mahajan's *khata*.

In 1897, the writing of the Mahajan's *khâta* on ordinary paper under certain conditions was prohibited, and the use of stamp papers of the adequate value in these transactions was made compulsory.

Supply of stamps.

The Treasury Officer is the *ex-officio* Superintendent of Stamps, and supervises the manufacture of stamps. The Cooch Behar Treasury is the central stamp depôt, from which are issued stamps to the Sub-Treasuries, which are branch depôts. The stamp vendors recieve stamps from these branch depôts in the Sub-divisions, and at the Sudder from the Treasurer, who is the *ex-officio* vendor of stamps and obtains his supply from the Treasury Officer. Monthly accounts of stamps have to be submitted by the Sub-divisional officers and the Treasurer to the Accountant-General, and the former have to submit another set of accounts to the Treasury.

Expansion of stamp revenue.

Like every other source of income, the history of the stamp revenue of the State is a history of rapid progress. In 1864-65, the stamp revenue amounted to Rs. 25,965. In 1883-84 at the time of the Installation it was Rs. 1,32,833; and it came up to Rs. 1,70,730 in 1899-1900, although the amount had been exceeded in the three previous years. The table given below shows the amount of stamp revenue, year by year, for the two administrations, namely, the British administration and the direct administration under His Highness :—

Year.	Stamp Revenue.				
	Judicial.	Documentary	Court-fee.	Other description.	Total.
1864-65	25,965	.....	.....	.....	25,965
1865-66	32,717	.....	.....	.....	32,717
1866-67	53,648	.....	.....	.....	53,648
1867-68	63,339	.....	.....	.....	63,339
1868-69	69,433	.....	.....	.....	69,433
1869-70	71,226	.....	.....	.....	71,226
1870-71	76,503	.....	.....	....	76,503
1871-72	77,639	.....	9,676	.....	87,315
1872-73	72,622	.....	15,454	.....	88,076
1873-74	71,247	.....	19,792	.....	91,039
1874-75	79,512	.....	25,172	.....	1,04,684
1875-76	75,746	.....	21,073	.....	96,819

Year.	Stamp Revenue.				
	Judicial.	Documentary.	Court-fee.	Other description.	Total.
1876-77	69,657	24,327	25,619	.....	1,19,603
1877-78	66,789	24,139	25,853	.....	1,16,781
1878-79	82,049	25,826	32,377	.....	1,40,252
1879-80	1,28,251	32,532	44,355	.....	2,05,138
1880-81	61,942	20,395	31,739	.....	1,14,076
1881-82	67,501	24,897	31,398	.....	1,23,796
1882-83	68,834	27,501	31,622	.....	1,27,957
1883-84	72,971	26,312	33,550	.....	1,32,833
1884-65	85,092	26,812	37,710	885	1,50,499
1885-86	84,534	26,298	41,055	2,086	1,53,973
1886-87	83,526	23,427	4,074	2,013	1,49,670
1887-88	79,312	23,765	38,413	2,306	1,43,796
1888-89	80,694	22,331	39,927	2,401	1,45,353
1889-90	78,950	20,515	36,896	2,389	1,38,750
1890-91	75,583	21,860	31,585	2,441	1,31,469
1891-92	83,075	25,881	34,605	2,865	1,46,426
1892-93	92,172	27,284	36,120	3,243	1,58,819
1893-94	89,486	25,933	34,738	3,249	1,53,406
1894-95	94,324	26,898	36,157	4,063	1,61,442
1895-96	84,665	36,669	33,477	5,340	1,60,151
1896-97	94,397	37,183	35,939	3,612	1,71,131
1897-98	1,03,437	29,069	38,776	4,233	1,75,515
1898-99	1,17,712	32,902	36,587	4,485	1,92,686
1899-1900	1,03,404	29,730	32,656	3,940	1,70,730

(4)—SETTLEMENT DEPARTMENT.

First Revenue Settlement of the State.

The Settlement Department was organised in connection with the first settlement of the State, and was opened in October 1864, with one office under Deputy Collector Babu Iswar Chandra Sen, who commenced operations in Rahimgunj. The office was transferred to the direct control of the Commissioner in 1865-66, and the settlement of Rahimgunj was concluded in 1869. In the meantime Colonel Haughton had proposed and obtained sanction of Government for a Talukwar survey of the whole State, which was carried out under Mr. O'Donell, Superintendent of Revenue Survey, in 1868 and 1869. After the conclusion of the Revenue Survey Mr. W. O. A. Beckett was appointed Assistant Commissioner in 1870, and was placed in direct charge of the Settlement Department. Five more Deputy Collectors were employed on the work of Khasrah measurement, and the settlement of the whole State was concluded in 1877. Mr. Beckett left Cooch Behar in 1875 after finishing the bulk of the work connected with the operations. The Dewan was then placed in charge of the department and wound up the work. The amount of revenue obtained was Rs. 9,38,611, showing an increase of Rs. 5,74,471 over the old revenue.

Settlement office transferred to Chaklajat Estates in 1877.

After Mr. Beckett's departure, the different settlement offices were gradually reduced, with the result that only one office under Deputy Collector Babu Gobind Charan Dutt worked up to the last. After the conclusion of the settlement of the State this office was transferred to Devigunj for the survey of the Chaklajat Estates.

Patit Charcha Settlement.

After the installation, while extending the term of the settlement to five years, His Highness ordered the assessment of the *patit* lands included within the jotes, and Babu Gobind Charan Dutt returned with his establishment from the Chaklajat Estates to take up work in October 1883. At this time Babu Rajkrishna Das, C.I.E., who also had hitherto been employed on the survey of the Chaklajat Estates, was appointed Settlement Naib Ahilkar and took part in the operations. The department was henceforth placed under the supervision of the Dewan. The Patit Charcha operations were concluded in two years and a half, after which the general resettlement of the State was taken up by those two officers. Two more settlement officers were afterwards appointed, and the resettlement of the greater part of the State was concluded in 1894. With the progress of the operations, three of the offices had been gradually abolished and only one office now remained. By this time a separate Tehsil office for Tufangunj was opened

General resettlement of the State.

at the Suldar. The Settlement Naib Ahilkar was placed in charge of it, and concluded the resettlement of Girds Chawra and Shandara and the Baish Chala jotes by the end of 1895-96. The head-quarters of the Tufangunj Sub-division were removed to Fulbari in May 1896, and the charge of the settlement office rested with the Malkutchery Naib Ahilkar till the end of the year.

Repairs to Settlement papers and conclusion of resettlement.

Owing to the very frequent use of the settlement papers in the course of the last two—Patit Charcha and Resettlement—operations a large number of chittas and maps had been damaged. On the recommendation of the Dewan His Highness was pleased to order that they might be repaired, and sanctioned a sum of Rs. 6,500 for the work. This was finished by the end of November 1896 under the supervision of the Malkutchery Naib Ahilkar. The Settlement office was now placed under the charge of the Naib Ahilkar of Tufangunj, who concluded the resurvey and resettlement of Bilat Bishguri and the western most nine Taluks of Gird Chawra, as also of Taluks Daikhata and Jaridharla Nadi, by the end of 1898.

The amount of revenue obtained by the resettlement of the State was Rs 12,41,000 which gave an increase of Rs 2,88,000.

Settlement of Khash lands.

In the course of the resettlement operations all assessable lands, not yet settled, falling within the resettled tracts, had been surveyed. A portion of these had been leased out in the course of the operations, but yet a part remained to be disposed of. There were, moreover, many *chars* of the rivers in different parts of the State, which could not be speedily dealt with by the Canoongoes without extra assistance. The earth-quake of 1897 dried up the beds of a large number of *beels*, and thus additional land became fit for settlement in jote right. An establishment of six mappers and one Peshkar was sanctioned in 1897-98 for taking steps for the settlement of these lands. This work was finished by the end of July 1899, and 12,410 Bighas of land were settled in the different Sub-divisions, which brought in a revenue of Rs 3,701, as shewn below:—

Name of Sub-division.	Quantity of land settled.	Revenue obtained.
	Bighas.	Rs.
Mekhligunj	69	40
Mathabhanga	1,125	374
Dinhata	4,725	985
Suddar	3,301	1,272
Tufangunj	3,190	1,030
Total ...	12,410	3,701

No special grant was made for the settlement of these *khash* lands. The work was done with the savings of the Settlement Department.

Resumption and settlement of Jaigir.

Formerly, all services of a personal nature, connected with the Rajbari and the State Thakurbaris, used to be performed by Jaigirdars holding service lands. In course of time circumstances changed, and it was found that efficient service could not be performed by these men. The first settlement of the State was, therefore, availed of to greatly reduce their number. Some Jaigirs were also subsequently resumed. The question of further bringing down their number was considered in 1898-99, and, on the recommendation of the Dewan, His Highness was pleased to order that a number of posts held by the Jaigirdars might be abolished and the work hitherto done by them might be performed by paid servants. The result was that 203 Jaigirs, covering an area of 10,061 Bighas, were resumed and settled in jote right with the Jaigirdars or with their undertenants, from 1306 B. E. Of the Jaigirs thus resumed 35 appertained to the Duar office, 149 to the Bakshikhana and the Toshakhana and 19 to the Debutter department. By this means 340 new jotes were created and a yearly revenue, amounting to Rs. 6,801, was secured, which was distributed among the different sub-divisions as shewn below :—

Name of Sub-division.	Quantity of land settled.	Number of jotes created.	Revenue obtained.
	Bighas.		Rs.
Mathabhanga ...	3,158	133	2,309
Dinhata	67	1	47
Sudder	6,653	196	4,312
Tufangunj ...	183	10	132
Total ...	10,061	340	6,801

This work was done at a cost of Rs. 4,840. It may be mentioned that while the revenue obtained was so large as Rs. 6,801, the amount necessary for paying the servants who took the place of the Jaigirdars was only about Rs. 1,300 a year.

Formation of Kishamat Mokarari, Part II

The Government of Bengal relinquished to the State six plots of land measuring 190 Bighas 10 kattas and 12 dhurs, which had been included in Taluk Kishamat Shib Prosad Mustafi, Thak No. 16 of the Rangpur district, in Chakla Purvabhag. These plots were formally made over to the State in 1897, and were included within the Dinhata Sub-division. The lands were surveyed in 1898-99 and formed into a new Taluk under the name of Kishamat Mokarari, Part II. The State obtained no revenue, as a

portion of the land was covered by a Mokarari holding, and the remainder by a Brahmatter.

Miscellaneous works.

Besides these regular duties, the department performed many other works of a miscellaneous nature, for which no separate provision was made, but which required the services of a professional department. The chief among them were the settlement of several boundary disputes with Rangpur, Jalpaiguri and Goalpara. The State materially assisted the proprietors of Mokarari and rent-free holdings by having their lands measured and settled by this department at their cost in the course of the resettlement operations. A topographical survey was made of the Cooch Behar town in 1884-85, and of the towns of Haldibari and Mekhlignnj in 1892-93. In fact in all matters of difficulty and doubt connected with question of survey or settlement this department from time to time rendered material assistance. In short, the department has more than justified its existance in a State like Cooch Behar with its temporary settlement of revenue, and ever-recurring necessity for survey and assessment of new lands.

Abolition of the dept. and formation of a new office.

The Settlement Department was abolished from the 1st August 1899. A small batch of Amins and a Peshkar was, however, simultaneously engaged for a thorough examination of the condition of the Jalkar mehals and *char* lands, and revision of the Syrat maps, which could not be done in the previous operations, and the establishment was placed under the Malkutchery Naib Ahilkar, who was the former Settlement Officer. From the 1st January 1900, the office was strengthened and the Additional Malkutchery Sub-Naib Ahilkar was placed in charge of the new office. This work has since considerably progressed, and an increase of revenue of above Rs. 7,000 has already been obtained.

Pensions to Amins.

Thus from the very commencement of the present rule the Settlement Department has existed in some shape or other, and has contributed to increase the State revenue to no small extent. In consideration of the good services done, some of the Amins were granted special pensions by His Highness in 1894-95, although the department was a temporary one, and a few others were provided with appointments in the permanent service of the State.

(4) THE TREASURY.

Establishment of Treasury.

There was no Treasury in Cooch Behar before Colonel Haughton's arrival. Each department made its own collections and disbursements, and only remitted the surplus to what was called the *Majudát*. One of the first steps taken by Colonel Haughton was to compel the various departments to remit all their

collections to the *Majudát*, which now became the Treasury, and to submit bills for their expenditure. Colonel Haughton made a large curtailment of many items of useless expenditure and remitted to the Bank of Bengal the Government securities possessed by the Maharaja, which had hitherto laid[n] useless in the treasure-chest. The Promissory notes thus sent were worth Rs. 6,51,300.

Government transactions.

On account of the Bhutan war the Treasury of Cooch Behar was partly converted into a Government Treasury, and it issued and paid public service transfer receipts and Privilege Remittances.

Appointment of Accountant

A trained accountant was appointed in 1865, before which the accounts had been kept in a very loose form, and a separation was affected between the Cash and the Accounts Department. The books prescribed in the Treasury Rules of Hume's Manual were introduced in the State. A cash account was submitted monthly to the Accountant-General of Bengal.

Old financial year.

The financial year used to be reckoned from one Punneah to another according to the Bengali year. But as there was no fixed date for the holding of the Punneah uniformly for every year, the revenue year was sometimes longer and sometimes shorter than a calender year. This was a source of much inconvenience and great difficulty in properly keeping the accounts. The present system of reckoning the official year was introduced in 1867-68

Budget system

The system of preparing Budgets of receipts and expenditure was not formerly in vogue. Under orders of Government the first Budget estimate was drawn up in 1865-66.

Appointment of Auditor.

Formerly, although there was the *Nikasi Adalut* or Account office, there was no regular system of audit in the State. The first Auditor was Babu Tara Charan Chatterjee, who was appointed in November 1867, and the Treasury accounts began to be audited in January 1868. The Audit Office was immediately under the Commissioner, and was located at Jalpaiguri where the Commissioner's head-quarters were. A general system of post audit was observed.

Charge of Treasury.

From the date of the establishment of the Treasury up to August 1872, the charge of the office lay with the Deputy Commissioner. In September of that year the Dewan was made the Treasury Officer. Along with this arrangement, the Deputy Commissioner assumed the control of the Audit office. After the installation the Dewan was relieved of the direct charge of the Treasury and his assistant, the Malcutchery Naib Ahilkar, was

made the Treasury Officer. This arrangement came into effect from November 1883.

Govt. Treasury.

During the period of British administration, the Government always kept some money in the State Treasury ; Government monies could thus be received and payments on account of Government made here. This arrangement was convenient to all parties At the request of His Highness the Government of India, in their letter No. 2704 of the 8th August 1884, decided that receipt and payment of Government monies in the State Treasury would not be disturbed. The conditons on which this sanction was accorded would appear from the following extract from the letter under referrence :—

"The Governor-General in Council sanctions the continuance of the present Treasury arrangements in the Cooch Behar State, subject to the conditions that the same returns, accounts and explanations are given as British Government Treasuries render; that the rules prescribed in the Account Codes are observed ; and that the Government balance is always left at the complete disposal of the Accountant-General, Bengal."

Increase of work in the Trearury.

With the gradual developement of the State and its trade and commerce the transactions in the Treasury are increasing every year. The number of vouchers is also gradually becoming larger. In 1896-97, the number of *challans* credited was 4,410, and that of bills paid was 8,841 ; in 1899-1900, they came up to 4,074 and 10,529, respectively. The demand for currency notes in exchange for specie and *vice versa* is becoming more and more pressing as years roll on. In 1896-97, currency notes worth Rs. 12,84,000 were received in the Treasury, and notes worth Rs. 12,74,000 were issued to the public; by 1899-00, the values of these rose to Rs. 15,77,000 and Rs. 16,01,000, respectively.

Remittance of pensions stopped.

Formerly, all State pensioners who resided out of Cooch Behar could obtain their pension by post from the Treasury on submission of bills with the necessary life-certificate. As the amount of pension was large, amounting nearly to Rs. 36,000 in 1897, the system involved a large amount of work. This practice was stopped in 1897-98 ; no pension is now remitted by post by the Treasury Officer, and the pensioners have to make arrangement for receiving payment at the counter.

Government receipts and disbu sements

The local Post Office sends large amounts annually to the Treasury on account of Government ; there are other Government receipts also, the bulk of which is derived from the tribute paid by the State and the sale of postage stamps. Government remittances are received over and above these in the shape of

supply of currency notes and small silver coins and copper coins under orders of the Accountant-General at the request of the Treasury Officer. The payments on account of Government consist chiefly of payments to the local Post Office; remittances to other Treasuries; payment of Military pensions to retired men connected with the Bhutan campaign and some Civil pensions; and cheques issued on the Treasury by Government Officers and credit orders issued by the Accountant-General to private persons, banks and firms. The Government receipts amounted to Rs. 7,12,764, and the disbursements to Rs. 9,38,410 in 1899-00.

Receipts and disbursements of the Treasury in 1899-1900.

Together with an opening balance of Rs. 8,43,666, the receipts of the Cooch Behar Treasury amounted in the same year to Rs. 45,72,287, and the disbursements to Rs. 35,48,267 resulting in a closing cash balance of Rs. 10,24,020, of which a small portion belonged to Government.

Stamps.

The manufacture and sale of stamps is one of the most important functions of the Treasury, and takes up much time of the establishment. Blank paper for stamps is also kept in the Treasury and has to be duly accounted for.

Bullion.

Bullion and old coins are kept in the Treasury. The chests of opium are also kept under double locks and are issued direct to the Excise Officers on their application.

Treasury Officer.

The Treasury Officer here exercises higher powers than those of a Treasury Officer of Bengal. He has to verify and certify the monthly cash balance, and sign the monthly cash accounts. In consideration of these circumstances His Highness was pleased to authorise him to sign all bills of the Treasury Department, like other heads of offices.

(*b.*)—MISCELLANEOUS.

Court of Wards.

Arrangements.

The Cooch Behar Court of Wards is an institution of old times having had its origin in the time of the old Maharajas. It was formerly under the superintendence of the Dewani Ahilkar, *ex-officio*, who took charge of the estates of all minors by whom or on whose behalf, a petition might be presented to that effect, provided their estates were considered of sufficient importance. In the time of Colonel Agnew's Commissionership, some of the provisions of Act VIII of 1859 were introduced, and the Civil Court commenced taking charge of the management of certain attached estates as well as of the estates of minors. These estates were managed through an officer named *krok Sajwal*, and

the department was called the *krok sherista* Latterly, the Malkutchery also began to assume charge of certain minors' estates, and of estates attached for the realisation of State dues.

Estbt of Court of Wards in 1875.

In course of time the number of the Wards' and attached estates increased, and it was thought advisable in 1875 to organise a department called the Court of Wards. The Fauzdari Ahilkar was put in charge of this department and took charge of the attached estates and of the estates belonging to the disqualified proprietors, with the exception of a few which still continued to be managed by the Revenue Department under the Dewan. Many of these estates were deeply involved in debt, and great difficulty was experienced in managing them. The burden of the first regular settlement, concluded at the time, fell heavily on many of these, and the arrears of revenue due by these estates to the State went on increasing. This subject attracked attention in 1878, and a revised scheme was sanctioned by the Commissioner in May of that year. Matters did not, however, still improve, and the arrears of revenue due by the estates continued to swell. In 1880, the subject was again taken up, and after a full consideration of the reports submitted by the different officers, final orders were passed by the Bengal Government in October 1882. Under these orders the petty estate yielding small yearly revenues, as well as those that were hopelessly involved, were given up by the Court of Wards. Only five estates were retained by the Court which were placed under the Dewan, the direct management vesting in a Manager appointed by that officer. The attached estates were made over to the Civil Court, and all others released estate, to the nearest male relatives of their proprietors.

Management.

Thus since 1882, the Court of Wards Estates have been under the management of the Revenue Department. Down to that year the Sub-divisional officers, acting at first under the Fauzdari Ahilkar and subsequently under the Dewan, used to look after those estates which were situated exclusively within their Sub-divisions. For the larger estates, which could afford it, there were separate Managers. All other smaller estates were under the General Manager. In 1894-95 cases of defalcation have occured at Dinhata and Mathabhanga by the Court of Ward Sajwal, the Sub-divisional Naib Ahilkars, in consideration heaviness of their multifarious duties, were relievd of the charge of the Court of Wards estates within their jurisdiction, and those estates were transfered to the General Manager.

At the end of 1899-00, there were twelve estates under the management of the Court of Wards.

Household Department

Old household offices.

As in all native and foreign courts, there were different offices in the Household Department from the time of the former Maharajas. These were (1.) the Duar office, (2.) the Toshakhana office, (3.) the Bakshikhana office, and (4.) the Debutter office. Up to the time of the last Maharaja the Duar Muktear alone was in charge of the Household and held a very important position. He was an adviser of the Maharaja in household matters and a large portion of the household expenditure was under his control. At the time of the Installation an European Private Secretary was appointed, and many of the duties hitherto performed by the Duar Muktear was transfered to this officer who had always to remain with His Highness wherever he might be. This arrangement served to decrease the importance of the old offices, which had, however, to be kept up for the performance of such works as specially appertained to a Native Court, and could not be conveniently done by the English Private Secretary.

Gradually merged in the Duar office.

Formerly, there were different persons in charge of these offices. In course of time they gradually came under the Duar Muktear, as will appear from the short account of these offices given below.

Duar Office.—The Duar Muktear was in charge of this office, and had formerly to perform all duties connected with the household affairs of the Maharaja. After the creation of the Private Secretary's office, the duties of the Duar Muktear were confined to superintending the performance of all State ceremonies, drawing and distributing the allowances of the different members of the Maharaja's family, and seeing that all their requirements were attended to. The household-servants not attached to the Private Secretary's establishment of His Highness are under him. It is his duty to receive native guests and look after their comfort. During the minority of His Highess, the Duar Muktear of the late Maharaja's time, Babu Kedar Chandra Sarasvati, was dismissed, and the predecessor of the present Duar Muktear, the late Babu Kali Kamal Lahiri, was appointed to the post.

Toshakhana Office.—The Bhandar Thakur was in charge of the Toshakhana, where the crown-jewels, &c. were kept. He had to make purchases of things for the Rajbari; all jewellery and other articles were in his charge; and, as the chief domestic servant, he had to offer *áttar* and *pán* and rose-water to the Maharaja on ceremonial occasions. The old Bhandar Thakur Ramanandan was

a man of importance, and greatly enjoyed the favour of the Maharaja. On the death of his son, Girijanandan, the post lost its importance. During His Highness' minority, much work was not done in this department; and as the Bhandar Thakur's pay was small, the department was placed under the Duar Muktear under whose supervision the Bhandar Thakur had now to work. In March 1895, this department was abolished as a separate establishment, and work done by it was distributed between the Duar and Debutter offices.

Old P. W. D

Bakshikhana Office.—The Bakshikhana was at one time the Public Works Department of the State. After the creation of the present Department of Public Works in 1867, it lost its importance, and its functions were restricted to the building and repairing of the *káchá* houses at the Rajbari.

Duar Bakshi.

There was a large number of Jaigirdar servants who had to perform special duties in connection with the Household. These servants were under the Duar Bakshi who had also to take part in certain ceremonies. The late Babu Rati Deva Bakshi, who was in charge of this department, was a trusted and faithful officer of the State. After his death, his eldest son, Babu Prasanna Kumar Deva Bakshi, was appointed to the post of his father. As this officer was very young and without any experience he was trained up under the supervision of the Duar Muktear. From November 1887 the Duar Bakshi came to work immediately under the Dewan. The Bakshikhana department was subsequently abolished in March 1895 and the work done by it, so far as it related to the houses in the Ander only, was made over to the Public Works Department. The Duar Bakshi's duties were confined to the performance of ceremonial works and to the supervision over certain Jaigirder servants of His Highness.

Debutter office.—This office was formerly presided over by an officer called the Dharmadhyaksha who had to supervise the *pujas*, *nitya* and *naimittik*, both daily and periodical. The expenditure of all Debutter money was under his control. At one time his post was an honoured one; gradually, however, it lost its importance and his office was put under the Duar Muktear. All periodical religious ceremonies are performed and all payments of donations of a religious character made by this office.

The former Maharajas established several Thakurbaries all over the State, and set apart lands for their support. The revenue derived from these lands was wholly spent in religious worships. Fixed scales of expenditure were sanctioned by the Commissioner during His Highness' minority before the conclusion of the first

settlement of the State. These scales yet remain almost unchanged. The successive settlements have greatly increased the Debutter revenue, but the expenditure under the sanctioned scales have remained stationary. The surplus is absorbed in the general revenue of the State. The Debutter Expenditure amounts to about Rs. 43,000 a year.

When the amount of tribute payable to the British Government was permanently fixed under the Treaty of 1773, the Debutter Revenue was not calculated among the assets of the State.

The amount annually spent by the Duar Muktear's office is close upon a lac and a half of rupees.

Besides the donations paid for charitable purposes, the charitable institutions maintained by this department are the Anandamayi Dharmashala and the Aurvedic Dispensary, both of which are situated in the town of Cooch Behar. The Dharmashala in an old institution, where persons, willing to take advantage of it, may obtain two good meals in the Hindu style, on their arrival in the town. About six thousand people were supplied with food here in 1899-00. The present buildings were built with money left by Maharajkumari Anandamayi, sister of His Highness and Rani of Panga, and were opened by His Highness personally in 1890. The Dharmashala has thenceforth been named "Anandamayi Dharmashala."

Aurvedic Dispensary.

An Aurvedic Dispensary is maintained where medicine is distributed gratis to the public. An experienced Kaviraj is in charge of it. The attendance at this dispensary came up to about ten thousand in 1899-1900.

Punneah ceremony.

The Duar Muktear arranges all the State ceremonies. Of these the 'Punneah' is one of the most important, and is the only ceremony in which His Highness takes a part. It is held shortly after the close of the financial year, ordinarily in the month of May, when His Highness holds a Darbar, and formally authorises the Dewan to receive the revenue for the new year. It is attended by the high officials and the Darbaris from all parts of the State, and *nazars* are presented to His Highness, or, in his absence, to the Throne. The officers receive *emdads* in return.

Department of Agriculture and Forest.

This department was organised in 1882-83, and came into its existence in October 1882. It was placed under the supervision of Kumar Gajendranarayan (Jr.) who had studied at the Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester, England, and obtained a diploma.

Such forests and plantations as the State possessed had hitherto been under the charge of the Superintendent of the Public Works Department. With the exception of a Sâl forest in Teldhar, these plantations were of small area and importance. But the attention of the authorities had been turned for some time to the desirability of increasing the area under forests, with a view to the wants of future generations, and several young nurseries had been planted out. There were several experimental teak plantations in different parts of the State including the two sub-divisional towns of Mathabhanga and Mekhligunj, which were about 12 years old at the date of opening of the department and required preservation and looking after. Forests and plantations.

Lord Ulick Browne, Commissioner, being struck with the wretched appearance of the cattle in Cooch Behar, determined to make an effort to improve the breed by opening an experimental cattle breeding farm and importing bulls and cows from Behar, so as to place good bulls within the reach of the people, and at the same time to breed young bulls of good stock for distribution throughout the State. The idea was given effect to in 1879-80, and a Committee composed of the Dewan, the Fauzdari Ahilkar and the Superintendent of Works was appointed to supervise the experiment. Thirty-seven bulls, cows and calves were procured from Tirhoot. Paddocks were constructed at the Suddar and each of the Sub-divisions, and the cattle were distributed amongst them. Some cows were given to private parties, who promised to look after them and produce the stock for inspection. Breeding of good cattle.

The improvement of agriculture had also engaged the attention of the authorities. Two successive experiments, one on the American system and the other according to the Manilla method, had been made in 1879-80 to improve the curing and cultivation of tobacco in the State. Mr. Paterson, the American curer, had died of disease contracted from this climate, and Senior Montfort, the expert specially engaged from Manilla, had left owing to failing health. Although the experiment had not yet been successful, yet in the opinion of both the above named experts much finer tobacco might be produced in Cooch Behar by scientific cultivation. Improvement of agriculture.

The combined result of all these disjointed experiments was the launching of the new department in 1882.

With the organisation of the department a Home Farm was established and a Fruit Garden was opened near the town of Cooch Behar. There had already been the Cattle-breeding Farms

and the plantations in existence. The department thus came to have four working branches under it. These were the—

1. Home Farm.
2. Cattle-breeding Farms.
3. Fruit Garden.
4. Forests and plantations.

A short notice of the working of each is given below. The department, which was under the Deputy Commissioner at its creation, was transferred to the Revenue Department and placed under the control of the Dewan after the Installation.

Home Farm.—The object of the Home Farm was to find out by continual experiment the improved system of husbandry and crops which could be cultivated most profitably. The crops taken up for cultivation were both English and indigenous. Generally wheat, tobacco, peas, oats, gram, pulses, paddy, potato, and cabbages were cultivated. The system of cultivation followed was both native and scientific. Although the outturn of some of the indigenous crops was pretty fair, the experiment in foreign crops was a failure and the whole matter proved very expensive. Accordingly, after an experiment of nine years, the Farm had to be closed in 1897. The closing remarks of Dewan Rai Calica Doss Dutt Bahadur, C.I.E., on the subject may be quoted with advantage:—

"It will be observed that the Superintendent is now of opinion that the soil of the Home Farm is unsuited to the growth of any crops excepting jute and paddy. Your Highness has lately been pleased to decide to close the Home Farm. In establishing this Farm in Cooch Behar the authorities hoped that the experiment made in it would induce people to adopt a more improved method of cultivation in their own fields. But these experiments were expensive and there was always a loss. The Farm could, therefore, be never popular amongst the rayats and they never derived any instruction from it. After the Farm had been just opened, Mr. Dalton, Deputy Commissioner, made the following remarks in his Annual Report for 1882-83. 'But the people are slow to adopt theories which do not bear the test of economy applied to their practical working, and, seeing that with an expenditure enormously greater in proportion the results produced by our system were little better than what they could turn out themselves, they were little likely to adopt it. It is too early yet to foretell the probable ultimate success or failure of the experiments from a strictly agricultural point of view. I have myself no great faith in such experiments, believing that the theories of

one country applied to another are apt to prove practically erroneous. The English theory of rotation of crops, for instance, applied to a country where nature replenishes the exhausted manures of the soil with an annual rainfall varying from 110 to 140 inches, is of little practical value. Rice grows luxuriantly in the same field from generation to generation and it is no good preaching to the rayats that tobacco grown in the same field for five consecutive years must necessarily cease to be a productive crop, when he knows that he and his father have grown it in one field, with varying results but with no gradual or visible deterioration in quality, for thirty years.'

"High authorities like Dr. Vöelker now incline to the opinion that an Indian rayat is not so ignorant of the principles of agriculture as he was at one time considered to be. I think, however, that experiments relating to the cultivation and the curing of tobacco may prove very useful in a place like this, where tobacco is so extensively grown. The experiments made before could not be brought to a satisfactory end, owing to the illness, and the inexperience as regards climate, of the persons temporarily employed."

The unsuccessful experiment in the Home Farm cost the State a sum of about Rs. 5,000 exclusive of the establishment charges.

Cattle-breeding Farms—The experiments in this Farm also were not successful. The resident rayats seemed to be averse to avail themselves of the services of the bulls, and it was the foreigners only who appreciated the advantage. Many cattle were gradually sold off and some were distributed amongst known persons of respectability, who promised to take care of them. In 1884-85, the Sub-divisional Farms were closed.

Only the Suddar Farm now remained. Owing to want of encouragement by the Cooch Behar public, the experiment did not flourish and the expenditure was gradually reduced. The stock of animals gradually dwindled by distribution, sale and death, till there were only two bulls in 1891-92. In the following year Kumar Gajendranarayan was transferred to Government service for learning the Police work, and the cattle-breeding farm was abolished, the two bulls attached to it being placed under the supervision of the officer in charge of the Jail.

The success of the cattle-breeding enterprise in this country is still an open question. The following weighty remarks of

Mr. Dalton on this subject recorded in 1882-83 will be found instructive :—

"My own opinion is that we can do little to force on an improvement in the breed of cattle in these parts, and, as I have often before said, I do not think a superior and consequently a higher priced description of cattle altogether suited to the wants of people in a country where tigers and leopards often commit great ravages. As cultivation improves and civilisation progresses the people themselves gradually import larger cattle if they find it advantageous. I have nothing to say against what we have been doing hitherto, that is, importing and breeding bulls for cross-breeding with the small Cooch Behar cows ; but so long as the country bulls and cows herd together all over the State the impression produced by our imported bulls will be small. I think the idea of having a bull at each State pound is a good one. It is a curious fact that the milk of the cows imported from Patna and Mazafferpur is not nearly so rich as that of the small country cows, nor does it make such good butter. Probably, the pasture which the State affords is more suited to the smaller breed than to the larger."

The total expenditure incurred for this experiment amounted to nearly Rs. 12,000.

Fruit garden.—Good fruits not being usually procurable at Cooch Behar, His Highness was desirous of having a private fruit garden near the town. A site was selected in Taluk Guriahati in 1882-83, and the work commenced towards the end of that year. The garden was opened on a land measuring about 60 Bighas in area, situated near the Torsa, at a distance of less than a mile fom the town. In the first year above 800 plants and grafts of 33 different species, including mangoes and lichis of different kinds, were planted. All these, however, did not live and fresh plants and grafts were put in every year.

By the end of 1889-90, the number of trees came up to 1787. Some of the mango and lichi trees also bore fruits. The lichi, however, did not do well as they burst in the end before they matured. Some of the mangoes were good, but others were tasteless. In short, the fruit garden did not promise to be a successful experiment.

Next year a portion of the garden was washed away by the Torsa, and the remaining portion was damaged by successive floods. Many fruit trees and grafts died in consequence. Some of the plants were removed to the palace vegetable garden and the Thakurbari and a few were given to the Public Works Department.

Thus just when the garden was beginning to bear fruits its progress was stopped owing to the action of the river.

An unusually heavy flood occurred next year (1891-92), and swept over the garden, leaving deposits of sand, and practically sounding its death knell. The garden was accordingly abandoned and leased out as a Phalkar Mehal. The amount of money spent on the garden from its conception down to its abandonment was Rs. 3,500.

Forests and plantations—The only branch of this department, which achieved any appreciable result, was the plantation of timber and shady trees in different parts of the State. The existing Sâl, Teak and Shishu forests were taken care of, and measures were adopted to extend Sâl and Shishu plantations. Teak did not flourish in the soil of Cooch Behar, and no attempt was made to extend its cultivation. With this view a Sâl nursery was made at Charakerkuthi; but the seedlings all perished and the experiment had to be given up. Sâl seeds had to be procured from Rajabhatkhawa and the work proved to be very expensive.

Owing to the special fitness of the soil of Cooch Behar for the growth of Shishu trees, the whole energy of the department was concentrated on the raising of plantations of these trees. At the same time the existing Sâl and Shishu forests and plantations were pruned and nurtured.

Between the years 1884-85 and 1892-93, twenty-one plantations of Shishu trees, covering an area of about 2,000 Bighas, were opened in different parts of the State and Shishu nurseries were reared in several places. A table shewing the number of plantations in existence in 1892-93 is given below:—

Name of place	Number of plantations.
Ghegirghat	4
Balasi Nababgunj	1
Suktabari	1
Baraibari	2
Charakerkuthi	3
Nilkuthi	2
Kharimala Khagrabari	1
Haldibari	4
Balasi Natuarpar	1
Hudumdanga	1
Kholta	1
Total ...	21

With the exception of the plantations at Haldibari and Hudumdanga, the soil of which places was declared to be too high and arid to be good for Shishu, all other plantations were doing well in 1892-93, when the department was abolished as a separate branch of administration and amalgamated with the Public Works Department to which it originally belonged.

The Forest Department did another good while it lasted. Under its auspicies shady trees were planted in various parts and Sub-divisional stations, which have now grown up and afford shade and shelter to the public.

An experiment was also made by the department in 1887-88 in the cultivation of date-palm; about 2,000 palm trees were planted on the Kanteswar's embankment in Gassanimari and also in Ghegirghat and Nilkuthi. This experiment did not, however, succeed.

Some plantain gardens were also opened out in different places near the town, with the object of supplying fodder to the State elephants. The choice of soil was not very happy ; the trees did not flourish and the plantations as they were, were made over to the Philkhana officer.

With the transfer of the forests and plantations to the Public Works Department the services of the Forest overseer were placed at the disposal of that department in 1892-93.

The net out-lay on the forests and plantations from 1882-83 to 1892-93 was about Rs. 11,000.

His Highness the Maharaja's Estates.

The Zemindaries are made up of the Chaklajat Estates and the Panga Estate. Besides, there is some house property at Darjeeling and Simla. Some of these houses are used by His Highness for his residence, and the rest are let out.

A short account of the Zemindaries is given below.

History of the Estates

The Chaklajat Estates.—As noticed in a previous chapter, the lands comprised by the Chaklajat Estates at one time formed part of the independent territory of Cooch Behar. During the unsettled times of some of the former Maharajas, the Mahomedans conquered the greater portion of old Cooch Behar, and, like many other parts of the kingdom, these tracts gradually fell off from the mother country. Chaklas Boda, Patgram and Purvabhag were, however, retained by Maharaja Dharendranarayan as a Zemindari in the name of the Nazir Deo. Some small estates were also

purchased during the last reign. All these go to make up the Chaklajat Estates of the present day.

These estates consist partly of His Highness' *nij* or personal property, and partly of Debutter property belonging to various *Thakurs* of which His Highness is the 'Sebait' in the eye of law. Formerly, all the expenses incurred in performing the *pujas* were met from the net profit of the Debutter property. His Highness now pays fixed sums to meet the above mentioned expenses, and receives in return the profit from that property, which are credited in the account in favour of the State. This change was made by the Commissioners during His Highness' minority and has resulted in a pecuniary loss to His Highness.

Description of the Estates.

These Estates comprise eleven revenue-paying and fifteen revenue-free estates, and one rent-free and nine rent-paying tenures, all of which except one are held under perpetual leases. They are situated in four districts, namely, Jalpaiguri, Rangpur, Dinajpur and Bogra, and are about 627 square miles in area.

The principal estates are Chaklas Boda, Patgram and Purvabhag ; Lats Dhamur and Maubhasha ; Kishamat Jaigir Pairabanda ; and Pargana Kunja Ghoraghat.

Soil and produce.

The soil is alluvial, and, where the ground is low, rich. The lands are fertile and produce Bitri and Haimanti paddy, jute, tobacco, sugar-cane, barley, wheat, *kaon*, *thakri kalai*, *khessari*, *mushur*, potato, ginger, turmeric, and chili, the produce of which, after supplying the local demand, is exported to Calcutta and the southern and the eastern districts of Bengal. The paddies, jute and sugar-cane are extensively grown in Chakla Boda, while tobacco and jute are very largely cultivated in Patgram. Paddy and jute are the principal crops of Chakla Purvabhag, as well as of other estates in Rangpur and Bogra. About 75 *per cent* of the whole area are either cultivated or are fit for cultivation.

Revenue.

The revenue payable by the eleven estates amounts to Rs. 1,16,712, and the rent payable for the nine tenures to Rs. 1,787 *per annum*. The cesses due by the Estates amounted to Rs. 52,834 in 1899-00.

Gross rental and cesses due to the Estates.

The gross rental of the whole property, when taken charge of by the British Government during His Highness' minority, was Rs. 2,66,136. On the 4th October 1883, when the jurisdiction of the Court of Wards ceased, it amounted to Rs. 3,05,440. A settlement of rent had been concluded in the meantime and led to the increase in the rental. Owing to local circumstances, the whole settlement jama was not charged in every case, but a

portion of it was kept in *mahakup* or abeyance. A portion of this *mahakup*-jama was with the consent of the rayats added to the rental in subsequent years. In 1899-1900, the gross rental thus increased amounted to Rs. 3,42,720. Khash lands were also settled from time to time. The amount of cesses (Road and Public Works) due to these estates was Rs. 46,200 in that year.

Mode of collection.

The lands of the estates are held by jotedars or tenants who pay their rents and cesses direct to the Naib or Tehsildar within whose jurisdiction their holdings are situated, receiving from him printed *Dakhilas* for all payments made. For purposes of collections there are eleven tehsil circles, each circle being placed under a Naib or Sub-manager.

Tenantry.

The condition of the tenantry is prosperous, and the relation between the landlord and tenants is satisfactory.

Management.

From the earliest times down to the year of His Highness' Installation the Chaklajat estates were managed by a manager, who was perfectly independent of any control of the Dewan of the State. This arrangement continued up to one year after the Installation, when in 1884-85 Rai Tarak Nath Mullik Bahadur, Manager, retired, and the management of the estates was transferred to the Dewan of the State, the Manager in immediate charge being placed under the control of the Dewan. This arrangement with a temporary interruption, from May 1889 to October 1895, continues up to the present day.[130]

History of the Estate.

The Panga Estate.—Like the Chaklajat Estates, the Panga Estate also was at one time included within the independent territory of Cooch Behar, having been founded by Narasinha, elder brother of Maharaja Naranarayan, and gradually fell off as the rulers became weak and could not hold their own against the Mahomedan kings. The estate of Panga in time came to be constituted into a Zemindari, the holder whereof obtained the title of Raja.

How it returned to Cooch Behar.

The last Zeminder of Panga, Raja Jogendra Narayan, married Maharajkumari Anandamayi, the step-sister of His Highness, and dying childless left all his property to his wife. The Maharajkumari before her death executed a will on the 14th February 1887, making an absolute bequest of the estate to His Highness. Rani Lakmi Priya Devi, the adoptive mother of Raja Jogendra Narayan, however, questioned her right to bequeath her husband's immoveable property. After some litigation, a compromise was effected

[130] A detailed account of these estates is to be found in the official report entitled 'A short Account of the Chaklajat Estates.'

with the Rani under which one half of the estate including the Petbhata, among other things, was made over by His Highness to the Rani absolutely. The remaining half came to be in the possession of Cooch Behar.

Management. The estate was at first managed by the old Dewan of the Panga family. The post of a separate officer was abolished in 1893-94, and the management of the estate was transferred to the Manager of the Chaklajat Estates.

Revenue and rent. The rent due to this estate amounted to Rs. 25,637, and the cesses to Rs. 2,066 in 1899-00. The revenue and rent payable on account of the eight annas share of Cooch Behar is Rs. 9,449 and the Road and Public Works Cesses come up to Rs. 1,944.

A detailed survey and settlement of rent of this estate under the provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Act has been decided upon, the Government having agreed to bear the cost of the Traverse Survey of the Pargana.

Benares Establishment.

Rajbari built by Maharaja Harendranarayan. **Kalibari and Satra.**—The State has a big establishment at Benares, where it maintains a Thakurbari and a *Satra*. Several old ladies of the Cooch Behar palace reside here, it being the custom with these ladies and, Rajguns to retire from the world in old age and repair to the holy city of Benares to die. Some people among His Highness' subjects and officers find shelter in the houses possessed by the State and obtain *Madhukuri* from the Thakurbari for their maintenance.

Temple built by Shivendra narayan. The Rajbari and the Thakurbari are situated in the Sonarpura Muhalla. The Rajbari was built by Maharaja Harendranarayan during his stay at Benares after he had repaired from the State to that holy city to die in peace in 1836. He contemplated building a temple of Kali, and laid the foundation stone of the present Thakurbari, but dying shortly after could not finish it. His son Maharaja Shivendranarayan completed the building in 1253 B.E., and on the 24th Baisakha of that year, on the 3rd day of the new moon, which is called *akshya-tritya*, installed the image of Kali named 'Karunamayi' in the same, and established a magnificient *Satra*. The following engraving in Bengali on a piece of stone is affixed to the southern gate of the Kalibari and *Satra* house:—

"The *Satralaya* of Sri Sri Karunamayi Kali established by Maharaja Shivendranarayan Bhup, ruler of Cooch Behar, on the 24th Baisakha 1253."

Pujas are performed both daily and periodically on a liberal scale, and a large number of people are daily fed at the *Satra*.

When His Highness the Maharaja Bhup Bahadur went to see his grand mother the late Maharani Danger Aye Devati at Benares in 1899, he saw the feeding at the *Satra*, and was pleased to order that the quantity of rice might be increased, which has since been done.

Discovered by Maharaja Lakshminarayan.

Lolarka Kunda.—The *Lolarka Kunda* is the name of a deep well situated in Bhadaini Mauja and about a mile south of the Kalibari. It is believed to be of great sanctity and antiquity. It is said that Maharaja Lakshminarayan in the course of his pilgrimage to Benares discovered this *Kunda* and by bathing in it was cured of leprosy. Being struck with the wonderful properties of the water he consulted the learned pundits, who hunted out a notice of this *Kunda* and its virtues in the Skanda Purana. He then had stone rings supplied to it, and a breast high stone parapet built around it. In the course of the centuries that followed the *Kunda* came to be in a delapidated condition for want of repairs. When Maharaja Shivendranarayan went to Benares, his notice was invited to this condition of the sacred well and he had it fully repaired. The following *sloka* was engraved on a stone which was built in the eastern side of the parapet:—

Repaired by Sivendranarayan.

গুপ্তং লোলার্ককুণ্ডং প্রকটিতমকরোদ্রম্য সোপানবৃন্দৈ
র্লক্ষ্মীনারায়ণরাট্ শিবসুতসুতজঃ প্রস্তরৈশ্চেষ্টকাদ্যৈঃ।
তদ্দায়াদোহরেন্দ্রাত্মজ ইহ সুমতি র্ভূপতিঃ সন্ বিহারে
তৎকুণ্ডং চারুচক্রে পিতুরভিলষিতেঃ সিদ্ধয়েশ্রীশিবেন্দ্রঃ॥

রাজশকা ৩৩৪। সন ১২৫০ বাঙ্গালা ২৫এ ভাদ্র।

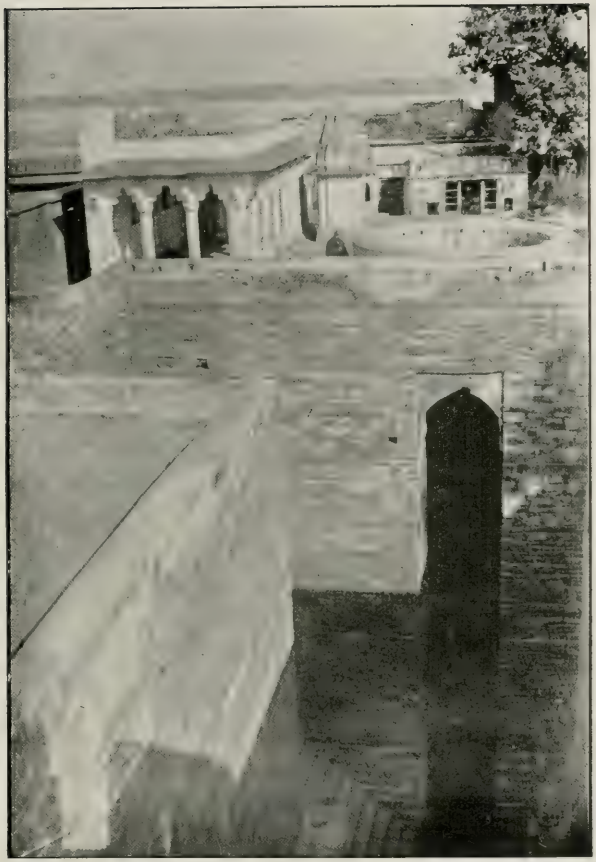
The *Kunda* described.

The *Kunda* is 51ft. in diameter, and is supplied with steps by the east, north and west for descending into the water for bathing. The steps reach the very bottom of the well, although only sixty of them ordinarily remain out of water. The water is very deep within the stone rings, not less than 30ft., below which is the original well, which is communicated with the Ganges by a subterraneous canal through which water from the Ganges finds an ingress into the *Kunda* in the rains.

Siva Lolarkeswar

Near the *Kunda* is installed Siva Lolarkeswar, where pujas are daily performed at the cost of the State. A *Mela* is held here in the *Sukla Sasthi* day or the sixth day of the new moon, in the month of Bhadra, when pilgrims numbering 50,000 to 60,000 visit it and bathe in the sacred water of the well.

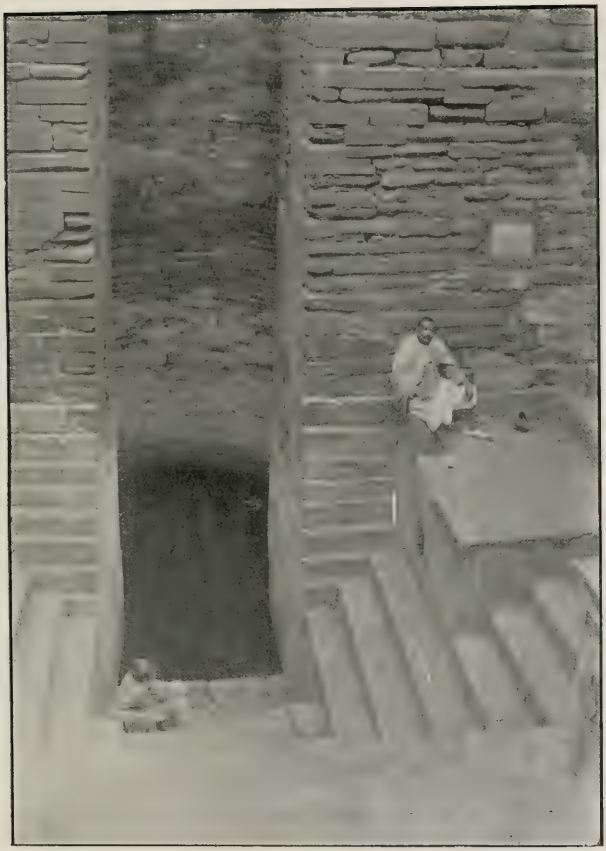
Management.—The affairs at Benares are managed by one agent, who draws and distributes the allowances payable to the



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LOLARKA KUNDA IN BENARES—UPPER SECTION—*Page 400.*



LOLARKAKUNDA IN BENARES LOWER SECTION. *-PAGE 400.*

Ranis and other State pensioners, and look after the performance of the *pujas* and maintenance of the *satra*. His Highness has some armed retainers at Benares, who are exempted from the operations of the Indian Arms Act.

Vrindavana.—The State maintains the *puja* of an idol in Vrindavana. The temple was built in Maharaja Harendranarayan's reign.

SECTION IV.

Judicial Department.

To this department belongs the administration of Law and Justice and Registration of Documents. These will be noticed under the following heads —(1) Civil Justice, (2) Registration and (3) Miscellaneous.

(1) CIVIL JUSTICE.

History and Constitution of Law courts.

Old Civil Courts.

The administration of Justice has from a very old time formed a chief function of the government of the country. The modern system of government has only improved, but not created, it.

Rajsabha.

Before the coming of the British Commissioner the highest court in the country was the *Rajshabha* or the king's council, which was created by Maharaja Shivendranarayan in 330 of the Cooch Behar era, corresponding with 1840 A.D. This court was presided over by the Maharaja or the *Sarbarahakar* or manager, assisted by the two Dewans, the Dewan of Cooch Behar and the Dewan of the Chaklajat Estates, and heard appeals from all other courts. It was divided into three departments, namely, *Uttama Danda* or the Criminal department, *Uttamartha* or the Civil department and *Uttama karasangraha* or the Revenue department. Maharaja Narendranarayan established a new court under the name of 'High Court', and transferred the judicial functions of the Rajshabha to that court. Afterwards he abolished the High Court and replaced it by another court which was called the *Khash Munshikhana*. And finally, on the 8th March 1864, Colonel Haughton abolished the Rajshabha and included it in the Judicial department of the Commissioner's office.

High Court.

Upper *Adalat* Dewani Ahilkar and Suddar Amin's court.

The next court was the Upper *Adalat* or Court of Appeal, presided over by the Judge. The third court was the Dewani Ahilkar's Court resembling the principal Suddar Amin's court of British India of those days ; while the fourth and the last court was the Suddar Amin's Court which decided original cases of small value.

The Commissioner's Court, which was presided over by the Deputy Commissioner during the continuance of the Bhutan war and some time after, heard special appeals from the Judge and exercised the controlling powers of the High Courts of British India; but unlike the High Court it heard no regular appeals. The Judge heard special appeals from the appellate decisions, and regular appeals from the original decisions, of the Dewani Ahilkar. He was both Civil and Sessions Judge, but had no original jurisdiction. The Dewani Ahilkar's Court was the first and principal court of original jurisdiction, and it also heard appeals from the decisions of the Suddar Amin, who,as already noticed, had original jurisdiction in petty cases only.

Abolition of old courts.

In the beginning of 1866 the office of the Judge as a separate appointment was abolished, and the duties of the post devolved upon the Deputy Commissioner, who was in his turn relieved of the charge of the Commissioner's court. The Suddar Amin's court was also abolished about the same time. There was at this time a Naib Ahilkar's court, but it had no jurisdiction in civil suits and was concerned with criminal cases only. There appears to have been formerly in existence such a court as that of the Naib Dewani and Fauzdari Ahilkar, similar to the sub-divisional Naib Ahilkar's court of the present day; but it seems to have been abolished before the advent of the Commissioner.

Establishment of Sub-divisions and Civil courts in the moffusil.

On the creation of the sub-divisions from the 1st April 1872, the sub-divisional Naib Ahilkars, who were primarily charged with the collection of revenue, were vested with civil and criminal powers "in order to raise them," as observed by Mr. Smith, Deputy Commissioner, in the Annual Report for 1872-73, "above the position of Tehsildars and also in order to render justice more accessible." Two of the sub-divisions, namely, Lalbazar and Tufangunj were, however, abolished next year, and there remained only three Sub-divisional officers with civil powers in the muffasil.

Besides the sub-divisional Naib Ahilkars one of the two assistants of the Fauzdari Ahilkar was vested with civil powers in 1872, and became an assistant to the Dewani Ahilkar. Both the assistant Dewani Ahilkar and the Sub-divisional Naib Ahilkars had jurisdiction in suits of the small cause court nature up to the value of Rs. 500 and in other civil suits up to the value of Rs. 100.

Appellate powers of Dewani Ahilkar

Formerly, the appellate powers of the Dewani Ahilkar extended to suits of the small cause Court nature up to Rs. 50 and other suits up to Rs. 20. After the creation of Civil Courts in the muffasil in 1872 these were raised to suits of the former descrip-

tion up to Rs. 100 and in other cases up to Rs. 50; appeals in suits of higher value lay to the Deputy Commissioner.

Peripatetic Naib Ahilkar.

Owing to the increase of civil work in the sub-divisions a proposal was made by the Deputy Commissioner in 1883 to appoint Assistant Naib Ahilkars under the Sub-divisional officers. This was disapproved on the ground that it was inexpedient to invest very lowly paid officers with judicial functions and a peripatetic Assistant Dewani Ahilkar was appointed in the first part of the year as an experimental measure to take charge of the civil work in Dinhata and Mathabhanga Sub-divisions, where the files were exceptionally heavy, the sub-divisional officers of those places being entirely relieved of the civil work.

Changes in the Law courts after the Installation.

After the installation the post of the Civil Judge was created and the judicial functions of the Deputy Commissioner were transferred to that officer. The Civil Judge became the head of the department of Law and Justice, and also Judicial Member of the State Council. The post of the Dewani Ahilkar was abolished, and the appointment of the Assistant Civil Judge was created to take its place. The jurisdiction of the Assistant Civil Judge extended to all civil suits up to Rs.500, acting as an original court.

Small Cause Courts.

The Courts of Small Causes were constituted in 1884-85, and certain officers were invested with the powers of a Judge in claims for money up to Rs. 20. The law relating to these courts was consolidated in 1895 by Act I of that year.

Sub-Naib Ahilkars.

In 1886, the peripatetic court of the additional assistant Dewani Ahilkar was abolished, and the posts of two Sub-Naib Ahilkars were created for the better carrying out of the work of administration in the sub-divisions. These officers were vested with the powers of a magistrate of the third class in criminal cases, and with powers to try cases of the small cause court class and rent suits up to Rs. 100. On the Revenue side they were empowred to hold revenue sales, and to remain in charge of the Sub-Treasuries and the office of the Naib Ahilkars during the absence of the latter from head-quarters.

The Civil Judge was appointed also the Sessions Judge in 1890-91.

The Jurisdiction of the Civil courts was finally revised and fixed by Act III of 1893.

Law and Procedure.

Introduction of Act VIII of 1859.

Before the arrival of Colonel Haughton the Civil Courts of the State administered the Hindu law, which in cases of difficulty used to be explained to them by Pundits or Law officers. None of the Acts and Regulations of British India were in force. Although

the courts followed no particular foreign laws, these Regulations and Acts had always more or less influence over them. In 1865-66, the Commissioner directed the Courts to conform as much as possible to the Code of Civil Procedure of British India (Act VIII of 1859). The Judicial system of the country thus gradually became an imitation of the system of the districts of Bengal. With the assumption of the charge of government by Colonel Haughton the old custom of allowing the parties to file a reply and a rejoinder in addition to the plaint, and also the practice of writing prodigiously long judgments embodying the whole of the pleadings and other antiquated points of practice disappeared, and the courts began generally to follow the procedure of Act VIII of 1859, which was not, however, formally adopted until 1875, when it was fully introduced in the State by Commissioner Sir William Herschel.

Old rules regulating Rent Suits.

Formerly, the suits for arrears of rent used to be instituted both in the Civil and the Revenue Courts. The procedure followed in these cases somewhat resembled what used to be the practice in Bengal in the days of the *Huftam Kanoon* (Regulation VII of 1779). Summary suits for rents of the past or the current year were brought in the Malkutchery; [131] regular suits for rents of longer periods or for the reversal of decrees of the Malkutchery in the above suits were filed in the Civil Court. Suits fit for trial in the Malkutchery sometimes used to be instituted in the Civil Court also.

Introduction of Act X of 1859.

The main principles of the Rent Law of British India, Act X of 1859, were ordered to be acted upon in Cooch Behar by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal in 1872. The effect of the introduction of Act X of 1859 was to transfer the rent suits from the Civil wholly to the Revenue Courts. After the Installation under the new constitution of the courts, these suits were made exclusively triable by the Civil Courts, and the jurisdiction of the Revenue Courts ceased from November 1883.

Transfer of Rent suits to Civil courts.

Evidence Act.

In 1873 the Indian Evidence Act (Act I of 1872) was introduced into Cooch Behar.

Certificates of heirship.

The Court of the Dewani Ahilkar had all along the power of deciding the question of heirship in a general way so as to be binding on all parties. But the practice was to adjudicate on the question as it arose in a suit, and the decree in that suit served the purpose of a certificate of heirship. No regular petition was recieved for the determination of such a question alone. In 1867,

[131] A remnant of this practice is still found in the Civil Courts in the rule of charging a reduced stamp duty on the plaint in suits for *Hal Khazana* or current rent. The law regulating the value of stamp in such cases is found in article 2 of the rules of the High Court of the 19th Jaistha 1269, published on page 49 of the "Letters and Proceedings having the force of Law in Cooch Behar."

the Dewani Ahilkar was vested with the powers of entertaining separate applications and issue certificates of heirship by a summary enquiry under the spirit of the law of British India, Act XXVII of 1860. The Succession Certificate Act of Cooch Behar, Act V of 1898, was passed in 1898.

Limitation Act.

The only piece of independent legislation enacted during the minority of the Maharaja was the Cooch Behar Limitation Act which came fully into effect from the 1st February 1880. With exception of some special points of limitation the general principles of the Indian law on the subject were embodied in this code.

Old practice regarding execution of decrees against ladies of the Palace.

On the 9th September 1869 the power of the Civil Courts of executing decrees against the ladies of the palace was withdrawn and was solely vested in the Commissioner. When a decree was passed against a lady in any Civil Court, a copy of the same was to be forwarded to and filed in the office of the Deputy Commissioner to whom the application for its execution was to be made. The Deputy Commissioner then sent up the application and the copy of the decree to the Commissioner for disposal.

Reciprocity in the execution of decrees of Cooch Behar and British India.

The decrees of the Civil and Revenue Courts of Cooch Behar could under the Governor-General's notification of the 7th March 1879 be executed in British India. The reciprocity in the execution of decrees between the British and the State Civil Court was established in April of the same year. It was afterwards stopped for a time, but was again reopened in 1891.

Right of adoption of prostitutes

The right of adoption of children by the prostitutes and Bairagis and their power to dispose of their property in their lifetime was acknowledged by the State on the 4th December 1871. It was, however, ordered that the prostitutes could not adopt female children.

Benami transactions prohibited.

Benami transactions were prohibited on the 25th May 1864, and on the 21st November 1872, the females were declared ineligible to acquire landed property in the State without special sanction These measures were necessary for putting down the abuses to which the systems had led.

Ministerial officers.

The ministerial officers of the State were prohibited in September 1873 from purchasing or taking any share in, or being in any way concerned with, the sale of property which had formed the subject of litigation, or had been seized in execution, in the Court to which they were attached or any subordinate court to such court. This rule subsequently came to apply to a general acquisition of landed property also.

Legislation after the Installation.

Since the Installation a large number of Laws has been codified. These are mostly based on the laws prevalent in British

India. There are also some special laws not borrowed from any other government. The laws which have a special bearing on the Rent Law of the State are the Sub-Infeudation Act, Act I of 1888; the Voluntary Sale of Under-tenures Act, Act II of 1894; and the Kist Act, Act I of 1898. The Priority of the State Dimends Act of 1899 is a special legislation for codifying an old unwritten law of the country.

Special rent laws.

Among the unwritten laws may be mentioned the following three salutary rules regarding the amount of interest recoverable in a court of law:—

Unwritten laws.

(1.) The highest rate of interest is one rupee and nine annas per cent, or three pies per rupee, *per mensem*. No court can allow interest at a higher rate.

(2.) The amount of interest which a creditor can recover by a suit can never exceed the amount of principal originally lent.

(3.) No suit for interest only can be instituted in a Revenue court.

The New Civil Procedure Code of the State, Act I of 1900, came into effect from the 1st April 1901. It is based on Act XIV of 1882 of British India.

New Code of Civil Procedure.

Litigation.

The figures given below show that litigation has steadily increased with the advancement of the material prosperity of the people. In 1867-68, the original institution of regular suits was 3,057, while in 1899-190 it come up to 9,349. The increase was thus more than three-fold : —

Increase of litigation.

Year.	Number of Civil suits.	Number of Small Cause Court suits.	Number of Rent suits.	Total.
1867-68 ...	1,933	...	1,124	3,057
1875-76 ...	2,516	...	1,691	4,207
1882-83 ...	3,336	...	2,465	5,801
1884-85 ...	2,804	773	2,865	6,442
1890-91 ...	2,014	898	2,879	5,791
1895-96 ...	1,874	1,862	3,487	7,223
1899-00 ...	2,254	1,744	5,351	9,349

The number of appeals, however, shows a gradual falling off, indicating the growing efficiency of the subordinate courts. In 1875-76, the number of regular appeals preferred against the decisions of the lower courts was 113; in 1882-83 the number was 256, which came down to 248 by 1890-91, and was further reduced to 191 in 1899-9100. Decrease of appeals.

Receipts and Expenditure.

The receipts of the Judicial Department have always exceeded the expenditure incurred for its maintenance. The administration of Civil Justice, far from causing any pecuniary loss to the State, has always brought in an amount of revenue after defraying the necessary expenditure, as shown below :— Receipts show a net gain.

Year.	Receipts from Stamps, Court-fees &c.	Total expenditure	Net revenue.
	Rs	Rs	Rs
1875-76 ...	38,537	23,639	14,898
1882-83 ...	89,574	33,343	56,231
1890-91 ...	80,042	41,619	38,423
1899-00 ...	1,18,693	44,129	74,564

(2) Registration.

A system of Registration of Deeds was in vogue even before the advent of Colonel Haughton. All registration used to be done by the Dewani Ahilkar. No registration of deeds was compulsory. The following documents could be registered at the option of the parties :—Deeds of conveyance whether by sale or otherwise ; leases of immoveable property ; instruments acknowledging the receipt of property ; wills ; deeds of authority for adoption ; and deeds of partition and agreement. The procedure followed in the registration of deeds was this : The deeds presented for registration were copied in the Register book and a fee of one rupee called *moharáná* was levied on each deed, plus five per. cent. on the value of the property in the case of deeds of conveyance. The *moharáná* and one half of the other fees were due to the Dewani Ahilkar, and the other half of the fees went to the State. Old system of registration of deeds.

Registrar of Deeds.

In the beginning of 1872-73 the registration of deeds was transferred from the Dewani Ahilkar to the Superintendent of Stamps, owing to the pressure of work of the former. Towards the close of the following year, however, the Indian Registration Law, Act VIII of 1871, was brought into operation in Cooch Behar under the orders of the Commissioner, and a Registrar being required to be appointed under that law, the Dewani Ahilkar was restored to his former position of *ex officio* Registrar of Deeds, for the duties of which appointment he had now sufficient leisure owing to the sub-divisional officers and the settlement officers having received jurisdiction in Civil suits.

Sub-registrars.

From the 1st April 1875, the sub-divisional officers were made Sub-Registrars within their respective jurisdiction, and Babu Bireswar Palit, Assistant Surgeon, was appointed Sudder Sub Registrar. All these officers were remunerated from the fees at the rate of 25 percent.

Act III of 1877.

On the promulgation of Act III of 1877 into British India the same law was introduced into the State from the 1st July 1880 in supercession of the old Act.

After the Installation the Civil Judge became the *ex officio* Registrar of Deeds in Cooch Behar.

Introduction of finger print.

By the State Council Circular order No. 8 of 1895 Sir William Herschel's system of finger prints for securing the identification of parties and their witnesses in the registration of deeds was introduced from October 1895.

Registration statistics

The figures given below show how this department has shared in the gradual development of the administration, and how both the number of documents registered and the amount of fees realised have steadily increased :—

Year.	Number of deeds registered.	Amount of fees and fines realised.
		Rs
1872-73	442	1,677
1880-81	5,649	4,169
1890-91	5,045	4,825
1899-00	9,827	8,628

(3) MISCELLANEOUS.

Civil Court Amins.

Employment of amins in local enquiries

Before the year 1869, the local enquiries in connection with cases pending before the courts of the State were held by temporary amins without any particular situation, and they were paid by fees realised from the parties. In 1869-70, two permanent Civil

Court Amins were appointed under the pay of the State, and a fee of Rs. 2 *per diem* was realised from the parties to the suits, as remuneration for the labour of the Amins on their behalf. This fee was credited to the State. In September 1870, a third Court Amin, and in February a fourth, were appointed. Besides the investigation into Civil and Revenue cases, these Amins had to perform works of a miscellaneous nature, in which the State was interested. They had to be largely employed in enquiries connected with the suits for enhancement of rent, in which particulars of land and jama of the rayat's holding had to be ascertained by local enquiry. As with the conclusion of the general settlement of the State, enhancement suits decreased, and, even when instituted, the informations on the points noted above could be obtained from the settlement papers, the services of these officers were less brought under requisition. The number of these officers was thus gradually reduced and brought down to one, which is the existing strength. Duties of the Amins.

Originally, the amins were under the orders of the Dewan. In 1872-73, one of them was placed exclusively under the Dewani Ahilkar. At last when after the installation the rent suits were transferred to the Civil Courts, the Court Amins were placed under the Civil Judge in 1884-85. A class of useful officers had in the meantime been obtained by the Revenue Department in the Canoongoes, and, with the change of constitution, the Civil Court Amins were no longer a necessity of that Department. Administrative changes

Bar.

A bar appears to have been in existence even before the time of Colonel Haughton. In July 1871, the Commissioner sanctioned the following strength of the bar for the State :— Strength of the bar in 1871

Pleaders	26
Revenue-Agents and Muktears... ...	26
Revenue-Agents only...	13
Muktears only	15
Total ...	80

Rules regulating the enlistment, license, fees &c., were also framed at that time. These rules were not, however, strictly followed afterwards. In 1882, at the time of the compilation of the "Letters and Proceedings having the force of law in Cooch Behar," Mr. Dalton, Deputy Commissioner, remarked as follows : Rules for the admission of pleaders, &c.

"The rules laid down by Colonel Haughton have gradually and imperceptibly been departed from. As with increased litiga-

tion and likewise an increased assimilation of the procedure of our courts to those of the neighbouring British Districts the necessity arose for more Pleaders, Muktears and Revenue agents, qualified persons have from time to time been admitted under the authority of the Deputy Commissioner.

"The time has now come when admission to the Cooch Behar bar should be regulated as far as possible according to the rules in force in British Districts. Much difficulty had been, however, thrown in our way by the refusal of the High Court to allow practice at Cooch Behar Bar to count as qualifying service for enlistment as High Court Pleaders."

In 1884, the State Council passed certain rules regulating the examination, admission and enrolement of Pleaders, Mukhtears and Revenue Agents. The Cooch Behar Legal Practitioners' Act (Act I of 1893), which was passed in 1893, did not fully repeal the rules of 1884. Most of these rules are still in force, and, together with Act I of 1893, furnish the law which regulates the management of the bar in the State.

In 1894, on the representation of some pleaders of Jalpaiguri, it was ruled by His Highness that the Pleaders practising in British courts would be allowed to appear before the State courts on making an application to the State Council, without regularly taking out the license.

The present strength (1900) of the bar in the State is shewn below:—

Strength in 1900.

First grade pleaders, of whom eight are Law graduates	30
Second grade pleaders	25
Revenue Agents and Mukhtears	31
Revenue Agents only	19
Muktears only	1
Settlement Muktear	1
Total ...	107

State Pleader.

From a very old time there was a State Pleader who looked after the Civil cases on behalf of the State. In 1891, a Public Prosecutor was appointed for conducting Criminal cases in the Sessions court and also important cases in the lower courts. This post was subsequently abolished in 1891. On the death of the old State Pleader in 1897, a Law graduate was appointed to the post who has charge of both Civil and Criminal cases. His duties are similar to those of the Government pleader in British Districts.

In Civil cases he receives his instructions from the Dewan who represents the State in all Civil suits. The State pleader is also the Law Lecturer in the Victoria College.

CHAPTER XIV.

FINANCE AND CONTROL, AND CURRENCY.

Condition of finance before Col. Haughton's time.

When the British Government took charge of the State during the minority of His Highness, the finances were in a deplorable condition. There was no control over the receipts and expenditure of the different departments, which made their own collections and disbursements and only remitted the surplus to what was called the *Majudat*. The system of framing budgets of revenue and expenditure was not in vogue, and both the receipts and disbursements were without proper control. Although there was a Nikashi Adalat or Accounts office, the accounts were kept in a loose manner and were not properly checked. One of the first steps taken by Colonel Haughton was to make all the departments to remit their collections into the *Majudat*, and to submit bills for their expenditure. A regular Budget system of controlling the finance was, under orders of Government, introduced from 1866-67. A difficulty in estimating the receipts and expenditure arose from the fact that the official year used to be formerly calculated from one Punneah to another. As there was no fixed date for the holding of that ceremony, there was no fixity of the length of the financial year. The existing system of following the Bengali Calendar year was adopted in 1868.

Revenue.

In 1864, the total revenue of the State amounted to Rs. 7,87,967. It was gradually improved under a well-organised system of government, as has been fully noticed in the foregoing chapter. In 1883-84, just after His Highness' installation, the receipts from all sources came up to Rs. 19,65,550, and in 1899-1900 they amounted to Rs. 22,72,608, showing a large increase of about 9½ lacs of rupees in the course of seventeen years.

Finance Committee and revision of expenditure.

Shortly after taking charge of the State, Colonel Haughton effected some reductions in the expenditure, especially in the charges under *Sradhas*, *Pujas* and other religious ceremonies. Under the advice of the Government of Bengal, a Finance Committee was appointed in 1865, with Mr. Beveridge, the Deputy Commissioner.

Dewan Nilkamal Sanyal, and Babu Kalikamal Lahiri, Accounts officer, as members, for the purpose of revising the establishments. The Committee considered what reductions were possible in the different branches of the administration and proposed the curtailment of every head of expenditure that was considered superfluous. On their recommendation the Debottar office was abolished, and fixed money grant was made for the maintenance of the Thakurs, the worship whereof had hitherto been a charge on the Debottar lands. The number of amlas in the different offices was considerably reduced. At the same time the Committee proposed an increase of pay in many instances, as the old scale of pay of Cooch Behar amlas was miserably small. The recommendations of the Committee were given effect to from 1866-67 and new scales of establishments were sanctioned by the Commissioner from that year.

The different departments were fully organised after this during the British administration, as has appeared before. After the Installation, the Personal office, and the Private Secretary's office were created. Increase of pay was from time to time granted to a number of officers.

The total expenditure of the State amounted to Rs. 6,33,413 in 1864-65. With the expansion of the administration, and increase of the Household charges, the expenditure gradually went up, and stood at Rs. 23,14,759 in 1883-84, and Rs. 23,17,463 in in 1899-1900.

Condition of finance between 1864 and 1883.

The condition of the finance during the British administration of the State will appear from the following table, which, however, does not include the figures for the Chaklajat Estates from 1876-77 to 1882-83:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus or deficit (+ or −)
	Rs	Rs	Rs
1864-65	7,87,867	6,33,413	+1,54,454
1865-66	6,06,121	6,12,804	−5,683
1866-67	6,17,230	5,10,613	+1,06,617
1867-68	7,90,833	5,82,313	+2,08,520
1868-69	8,14,898	6,84,671	+1,30,227
1869-70	9,41,423	9,37,236	+4,187
1870-71	9,19,735	9,19,772	−37
1871-72	11,20,932	12,02,791	−81,859
1872-73	10,02,132	11,45,136	−1,43,004
1873-74	10,70,693	10,92,701	−22,008
1874-75	14,43,452	15,33,334	−89,882
1875-76	12,94,087	11,02,890	+1,91,197
1876-77	12,94,489	9,31,090	+3,63,399
1877-78	12,65,472	13,46,424	−80,952
1878-79	13,54,921	11,72,212	+1,81,709
1879-80	14,72,007	11,15,757	+3,56,250
1880-81	12,95,366	11,85,525	+1,09,841
1881-82	13,20,395	11,63,434	+1,56,961
1882-83	13,31,663	12,36,380	+95,283
1883-84	19,65,550	23,14,759	—3,49,209
Total ...	2,27,09,266	2,14,23,255	+12,86,011

Between 1884 and 1899

The revenue and expenditure, including those of the Chaklajat Estates, during His Highness' administration from 1883-84 to 1899-00 are given below:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus or deficit (+ or −)
	Rs	Rs	
1884-85	17,45,481	23,42,453	−5,96,972
1885-86	17,44,687	21,32,024	−3,87,337
1886-87	17,68,574	17,98,160	−29,586
1887-88	16,95,292	14,43,421	+2,51,871
1888-89	16,63,329	17,47,324	−83,995
1889-90	18,56,262	24,90,207	−6,33,945
1890-91	17,99,980	17,78,917	+21,063
1891-92	18,92,405	17,91,724	+1,00,681
1892-93	20,69,701	18,82,444	+1,87,257
1893-94	20,67,158	20,13,957	+53,201
1894-95	21,73,323	19,26,506	+2,46,817
1895-96	21,27,416	24,43,570	−3,16,154
1896-97	21,58,266	21,34,005	+24,261
1897-98	22,39,668	24,12,101	−1,72,433
1898-99	23,58,062	22,81,123	+76,939
1899-00	22,72,608	23,17,463	−44,855
Total	3,16,32,212	3,29,35,399	−13,03,187

Cash Balance—Maharaja Narendara Narayan left Government securities representing Rs. 6,51,300, and coins of sorts in the treasury of the estimated value of Rs. 5,57,997. There were also bonded debts and shares in a Joint Stock Company, representing about Rs. 60,000. Under the British administation of the State during the minority of His Highness there was an aggregate saving of Rs. 12,86,011, from the revenue of the country. The greater portion of this was invested in Government promissory notes and shares and Debentures of Joint Stock Companies. The cash balance in 1883-84, just after the transfer of charge of the administration by Government, amounted to about Rs. 2,75,000.

In the course of the sixteen years that followed, large sums were expended on the Palace, the general re-settlement of the State, improvement of communication and construction of the railway, and other public works, in all amounitng to close upon fifty lacs of rupees. The whole of this amount could not be met from the ordinary revenue of the State, and there was a total deficit of Rs. 13,03,187, which had to be made up by disposing of the Government securities, and contracting a loan of eight lacs from Government. The cash balance on the 31st March 1900, stood at about three lacs and a half of rupees.

Assets and Liabilities—In 1864 Colonel Haughton estimated the liabilities of the State at Rs. 50,000, and the assets at about Rs. 12,70,000. In 1883-84, they stood at Rs. 3,10,989, and Rs. 32,29,725, and in 1899-1900, at Rs. 10,08,778, and Rs. 35,95,968, respectively. The net assets thus amounted to Rs. 12,20,000 in 1864, Rs. 29,18,736 in 1883-84, and Rs. 25,87,190 in 1899-1900. The resources of the country had in the meantime largely increased, and the year 1900 marked a decided improvement in the condition of the State and its people in almost every respect on the state of affairs in 1883-84 ; while comparison was simply impossible between the condition of things in 1864 and 1900, so vast was the improvement effected in the meantime.

Control—His Highness controls the expenditure of the State with the assistance of the State Council. The Personal office is in charge of Babu Priya Nath Ghosh, M.A., who has been the Personal Assistant to His Highness since the installation.

Mint and Currency—The independent kings of Cooch Behar had their own mints and own coinage. The coins, which were called "Narani" and were in circulation not only in Cooch Behar but also in Assam, Nepal and Bhutan, were originally of full weight and size. When Maharaja Lakshmi Narayan acknowledged the sovereignty of the Emperor of Delhi, he gave up coining full coins

in token of his vassalage, and only half coins were henceforth manufactured.

Although the right of coinage was kept open by the Treaty of 1773, by virtue of which Cooch Behar came to be in political dependence on the British Government, yet attempts were more than once made by the Government to induce Maharaja Harendra Narayan to close the mint and accept the British Indian coins as the currency of the State. But the privilege was a cherished one, both of the ruler and of the people, and the Maharaja could not be persuaded to part with it. Although the mint was subsequently closed, the Narani coins cotinued to be the currency of the State as also of Assam and the neighbouring countries. The stoppage of the mint, however, served to debase the currency and bring into existence a large quantity of spurious coins of very inferior quality. When the Government took charge of the country in 1864, Colonel Haughton, the Commissioner, was called upon to consider and report on the propriety of substituting the coinage of British India for the Narani coins. The Colonel was opposed to the abolition of the coinage of the State, and proposed that for the purpose of bringing a stock of good coins in currency, new Narani coins should be struck with the name of the ruler on one side, and the bust of the Queen on the other to denote the dependence of the State on Her Majesty. The Government, however, did not agree with the Commissioner, declared the British Indian currency as legal tender in Cooch Behar in 1865, and abolished the Narani coins from the 1st January 1866. The Narani rupees were gradually recalled and received at the Cooch Behar Treasury at the rate of 100 full coins for 68 Government rupees.

With the introduction of the British Indian currency the salaries of the State officers were revised and near scales were fixed.

Following the immemorial custom of the family of issuing coins in the name of the new ruler on each succession, the Government authorised the striking of Rs. 1,000 and some gold mohars on the succession of Maharajas Shivendra Narayan, Narendra Narayan and Nripendra Narayan.[132]

[132] Colonel Haughton's letter No. 165, dated the 6th June, 1864. Bengal Government letter No. 4370 of the 26th October, 1864. India Government letter No. 271 of the 21st November, 1864.

CHAPTER XV.

The Maharaja and Family.

Origin of family.

The sacred writings of Kamarupa, of which the *Jogini Tantra* and the *Kalika Purana* are the foremost, claim for the Maharajas of Cooch Behar a Kshatriya origin. According to a text of the *Jogini Tantra*, the ancestor of the Cooch Behar family, namely, Maharaja Visva Sinha, was the son of Hira, a Koch damsel, by god Mahadeva,[132 (a)] as already alluded to in connection with the Koch Kings of Kamarupa.[132(b)] A second text of the same affirms that the Koches are Kshatriyas, who concealed themselves in Kamarupa for fear of Parasurama and thus came to be denominated *Sankocha*, which means *fallen*, *degenerated* or *frightened*.[132(c)] In a previous chapter the *Sankocha Kshatriya* controversy has been fully noticed, and it has been explained how a Kshatriya, or at least an Aryan, element in the mixed race of the Koches cannot be consistently denied.[132(d)] The present line of rulers, according to this theory, sprang from a *Sankocha Kshatriya* mother and a divine, or at any rate an Aryan, father. The Cooch Behar family are called *Siva Vansa* or descendants of god Siva.

Birth.

Colonel His Highness Maharaja Sir Nripendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur, G.C.I.E., C.B., A.D.C., was born on the 4th October 1862. He was the only child of his mother, the Rajmata Nishimayi Deo Aye Devati. There were two other issue of his father, the late Maharaja Narendra Narayan. The eldest of these was Maharajkumari Anandamayi by Maharani Nistarini, and was born on the 18th July 1860. The second was Kumar Jotindra Narayan by Harasundari Aye; he was born on the 26th February 1861.

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132 (a) কোচাখ্যানে চ দেশে চ যোনিগর্ত্তসমীপতঃ।
মাধবী শক্তিরস্ত্যেকা হীরেতি জনবিশ্রুতা ॥
ভিক্ষাচারপ্রসঙ্গেন গচ্ছামি চ দিবানিশং।
তৎসন্নিধৌ মহাদেবি তয়া মে রমণং মহৎ ॥
তস্যাঃ পুত্রো বিশ্বসিংহো মদৌরসসমুদ্ভবঃ।
একঃসন্ জীতবান্ কামান্ সৌমারান্ গৌড়পঞ্চকান্ ॥
বিনির্জ্জিতা নৃপান্ সর্ব্বান্নেকচ্ছত্রঃ মহীপতিঃ।
তস্যাপি বহবঃ পুত্রাঃ পৃথিবীপরিপালকাঃ ॥
কুবাচা ধার্ম্মিকাঃ সর্ব্বে রাজানো যুদ্ধদুর্ম্মদাঃ ॥
Jogini Tantra, Patal XIV.

132 (b) *Vide, ante* page 225.

132 (c) পরশুরাম ভয়াৎ ক্ষত্রী
সংকোচাৎ কোচউচ্যতে।
Jogini Tantra.

132 (d) *Vide, ante* Part II, Chapter II, Section III, pages 126-127.

Succession to the *guddi*.

When only ten months and four days old, his father died and by his dying wishes left him the sole heir to all his earthly possessions. On the 7th August 1863, the day after the demise of the late Maharaja, he was placed on the ancestral *guddi* by his grand-mothers, Maharanis Kameswari and Brindeswari, with the unanimous support and hearty co-operation of his father's faithful ministers and officers. This succession was afterwards recognised by Government as noticed before.

The young Maharaja spent the first five years and four months of his life at the capital, where he generally kept good health and took his first lessons in Bengali from Babu Nilmani Chatterjee, Head Pundit of the local vernacular school. A plan for giving the prince a suitable education was about this time settled by Government in consultation with Colonel Haughton, one of whose most anxious cares was to see his beloved ward properly trained up. It was decided to remove the infant Maharaja from the unwholesome surroundings of Cooch Behar before his habits were formed and to place him in the Wards' Institution at Benares under the charge of the Commissioner of the Division. Colonel Haughton's memorable utterances on the occasion, conveyed in his letter to the Maharanis, will always bear reproduction, and extracts from them are quoted below :—

Early education.

"It is well known and understood that the conduct of rulers greatly affects the welfare of the people. If the ruler is indolent, luxurious and slothful, the people will suffer; for many of the chief men will imitate their rulers and the business of the State will be neglected. Justice will not be done ; rayats will suffer and in the end the ruler's authority and revenues will cease. If an enemy comes into the country the people will be glad, for their case can be no worse than it is, and they hope it may be better.

"Much pain was taken to teach Raja Harendra Narayan, but the hopes of the Government were disappointed ; but as Cooch Behar was over-shadowed by the protection of the British Government the State became more prosperous and the jungle in many quarters disappeared. Harendra Narayan passed away, and Shibendra Narayan took his place ; but his life was not long. Narendra Narayan succeeded, while an infant, to the Raj, and how great was the anxiety of the Government that he should be a worthy ruler. It is, however, the opinion of those who have thought most on the subject that his education was commenced too late. He had, before he left Cooch Behar, learnt to indulge in all his fancies. He was flattered and humoured till it became the habit to indulge without restraint in every fancy.

"Ever since I have become Commissioner of Cooch Behar the honour of the Raja, his future happiness, and the welfare of the State have been my anxious care, and I believe that these ends cannot be ensured unless he is taken away, before his habits become fixed, to be educated like others."

Education at Wards' Institution, Benares.

In accordance with the above plan the young Maharaja proceeded to the Wards' Institution at Benares. He left Cooch Behar on the 6th February 1868 under the charge of Mr. Smith, Deputy Commissioner, and accompanied by his mother, brother and three other boys, who were selected to be his companions. The party marched *via* Jalpaiguri to Caragola and Shahebgunj, and thence proceeded by rail, arriving at Benares on the 28th February.

At Benares the Maharaja was placed under the guardianship of the late Babu Kedar Nath Palodhi, Superintendent of the Wards' Institution, a gentleman who was an orthodox Hindu himself and brought up his pupil in his own creed. The Maharaja was keenly fond of out-door games from his boyhood. The late Maharaja Lachmiswar Sinha Bahadur and his younger brother, Maharaja Rameswar Sinha Bahadur, of Durbhanga, who also were wards at Benares, were his friends in the cricket field. Among other inmates of the Institution at that time may be mentioned the names of Raja Ram Pratap Sinha of Manda, Raja Uditnarayan Sinha of Duttiah, Rajas Harihar Dutt Dubey and Sunker Dutt Dubey of Jaunpur, and the late Raja Kumudnarayan Bhup of Bijni.

His early education made in every way a satisfactory progress. In May 1869, Captain Lance, the Deputy Commissioner, in noticing the favourable accounts of His Highness' health and progress of study at Benares, observed, "and if he continues in the same course the State will reap all the advantages to be gained from a good ruler." In the following year, while reporting on the Maharaja's cold weather visit to the capital, the same officer remarked that the young prince had created a very favourable impression and appeared to be likely to do credit to his teachers.

Education at Patna.

In the beginning of 1872, it was decided by Government to change the place of the Maharaja's education. In February of that year Babu Kasi Kanta Mukherji, Superintendent of Education of Cooch Behar, was ordered by Colonel Haughton to take temporary "charge of the minor Raja and his four companions, conduct them to Patna, enter them at Government College and generally direct their studies out of College in accordance with the College course." Detailed instructions were given to that officer in a most anxious spirit by the Colonel, which began thus :

"It will be your duty to see that the boys sedulously pursue their studies ; to watch over their conduct and the management of the household ; to see that strangers and unauthorised persons have not access to them ; and generally to discharge such duties with regard to them as a good parent would be bound to do."

Change in the course of instruction.

Accordingly, the Maharaja was sent to Bankipur in April 1872, in temporary charge of Babu Kashi Kanta Mukherji till the arrival of Mr. H. St. John Kneller, who was appointed his tutor and guardian. Babu Brajendra Mohan Das became the assistant tutor. A change appears to have been made at this time in the course of instructions hitherto followed in the education of the Maharaja, as will appear from the fresh instructions issued by Colonel Haughton. "There is," observed the Commissioner in his letter to Babu Kashi Kanta Mukherji, "one very important subject in connection with the education of the boys which should have been mentioned earlier. It is my wish that their knowledge of language be imparted through the medium of English and Bengali languages. I have very imperfect means of knowing the course of education pursued at Benares ; but from the statement of the boys it appeared that they were compelled to learn through the medium of Hindustani, Hindi, Bengali and English. If this be a fact, the course pursued was a mistake. I should be glad if the capacity of the boys enable them to acquire such a knowledge of Hindustani as to enable them to read, write and understand it whether written or printed in the Persian or semi-Arabic character ; but I deprecate their having to learn in the ordinary branches of education through any medium other than their vernacular Bengali, or English."

The Maharaja entered the Patna Collegiate School and prosecuted his studies there for about five years. Mr. Dalton, who had the opportunity of closely observing the successive stages in the mental development of the young prince, thus spoke of the result of the Maharaja's education at Patna : "There (at Bankipur) he found a congenial soil for the fructification of those qualities, which, while doubtless needing the unremitting care and judicious training that under Mr. Kneller they received, must have been inborn to have developed themselves so remarkably."

Tour in the N. W. Provinces.

In 1875-76, the Maharaja made a tour in the North-Western Provinces, Oudh and the Punjab, under the charge of Mr. Kneller and visited most of the important historic places.

Attended the Delhi Assemblage.

In December of the following year, His Highness was invited to Delhi to be present at the Imperial Assemblage of 1877. He went in charge of the Commissioner Lord Ulick Browne, and



Photo Block.

SHOOTING CAMP.—*Page 420.*

was accompanied by his tutor Mr. Kneller and his brother Kumar Jotindra Narayan. On account of his minority, the Lieutenant-Governor had decided that the Maharaja should not go to Delhi in state. On the 29th December, he was received by His Excellency the Viceroy Lord Lytton, who presented him with a handsome banner with his arms, etc., thereon, and placed round his neck the Kaisir-I-Hind medal. Before he left Delhi, the Maharaja was again received by the Viceroy when His Excellency presented him with a handsome sword in a case with a photograph of himself fixed in the scabbard, and also with a larger photograph in frame and a book with his Lordship's autograph in it. These presents were from the Empress and the Viceroy. The Maharaja was saluted with 13 guns and by a European Guard of Honour on his arrival at Delhi, and the same salute was fired at his departure.

Education in sports.

While at Benares and Bankipur, the young Maharaja used to come home in the winter for a short stay. It was during these cold weather visits that His Highness could mix with his officers, have a glimpse of the working of his principality, and thus receive a training in the work of a ruler. It was also in the course of these short sojourns at home that he had the opportunity of joining the camps of the Deputy Commissioner on tour or accompanying him into the interior and developing a taste for shooting and camp-life.

When only ten years old, His Highness learned to ride and shoot. He appears to have received his early lessons in both these forms of sports from Mr. Beckett, the Deputy Commissioner, in the course of his winter tour of 1871-72. Mr. Beckett took His Highness to the annual Buxa Durbar of that cold weather, and showed him the eastern, western and southern parts of the country as well. The young Maharaja rode by the side of Mr. Beckett all the time they were out in the interior and often made 10 to 14 miles on horse-back at a stretch. He was sometimes taken out on shooting excursions, and took part in bagging tigers, wild buffaloes and deer.

This is what Mr. Beckett said regarding the proficiency of the infant prince at the end of the first season in 1872 :—

"The Raja seems very keen after sport now and begins to shoot very fairly. He seldom misses a bird sitting and very often knocks one over flying. He is a frank, open-hearted lad. I was much pleased with the way he kept his seat on his pony one day ; when crossing a field where a cow was tethered, the pony caught his foot in the rope and plunged to get free and the little rider held his own well."

Chura-karan Ceremony.

The *Chura-karana* ceremony of His Highness took place in December 1876, at Cooch Behar. It was about this time that Mr. Dalton thus spoke of the young Maharaja :—"He is fond of his native soil and of the people, and enjoys himself thoroughly, taking an interest in everything. He is a keen sportsman and rides very well indeed."

MARRIAGE.

On the 6th March 1878, His Highness was married at Cooch Behar to Srimati Suniti Devi, daughter of the late Babu Keshav Chandra Sen, the celebrated Brahmo Reformer and founder of the New Dispensation Church.

Details of the Ceremony.

The bride accompanied by her parents arrived at Cooch Behar from Calcutta on the 27th February. They travelled by special train from Calcutta to Haldibari, whence carriages and palkis carried them to Cooch Behar. The bride remained in the house which had been prepared for her reception until the night of the 5th March, when according to the custom of the Cooch Behar family, she was conducted to the Rajbari in procession. The ceremony of marriage commenced at about 10 p. m., on the night of the 6th and lasted until 3 a. m., on the 7th. The European guests of the Maharaja, including Duke Grazioli, Don Julio Malgiano and Marquis Pizzardi, were present at the ceremony and remained until about 2 a. m. The rites observed were Hindu in all essential features, though in deference to the religious principles of the bride's father idolatrous *mantras* were omitted and the presence of an idol was dispensed with. Care was, however, taken to retain whatever the Brahmins considered essential to the validity of the marriage.[132(e)]

Recognised by Government.

The marriage was afterwards formally declared legal by the Government, and their declaration to that effect is now among the permanent records in the archives of Cooch Behar.[133]

His Highness is perhaps the first ruler of Cooch Behar who has married one wife.

TRAVELS IN EUROPE.

Sir Richard Temple's view.

The question of His Highness' visiting Europe had been broached long before his marriage. In fact there was a discussion

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132(e) *Vide* Deputy Commissioner Mr. Dalton's remarks on the marriage in his Annual Administration Report for 1877-78.

133 Bengal Government's letter No. 123 P, dated the 24th April 1878, to the address of the Commissioner of the Rajshahi and Cooch Behar Division, copy of which was forwarded to the Deputy Commissioner with the Commissioner's letter No. 3 of the 10th April 1878.

on the subject between Sir Richard Temple and His Highness' mother and grand-mother during His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor's visit to Cooch Behar in 1875. Sir Richard Temple's observations on the subject are well worth quoting :—

"During my interview with the Raja's mother and grand-mother, these ladies expressed anxiety regarding the possibility of the Raja's visiting England, which they deprecated on the ground that after seeing Europe he would never care for such a place as Cooch Behar, nor for such quiet homely people as his relatives. I explained that it had not been decided whether the Raja should visit England, but that if he did so it would be only for a short time, enough indeed to enlarge and strengthen his mind, but not enough to make him forget his home and kindred ; and that while giving him the benefit of an English education, we should take every pains to train and prepare him for the duties he would hereafter have to discharge as the head of a Hindu State."

First visit to Europe.

It was, however, not before three years after this that the contemplated visit took place. The matter was settled by Government in January 1878, and immediately after the marriage His Highness proceeded on a visit to Europe under the joint guardianship of Dr. B. Simpson, now Surgeon-General Sir Benjamin Simpson, and Mr. Kneller. There he spent about ten months, visiting Italy, France and Belgium, in which latter court he was received with marked courtesy and was the guest of royalty. While in England he had the honor of being presented to Her late Majesty Queen Victoria and to His Royal Highness the then Prince of Wales. Thus began an acquaintance which through successive visits has deepened the loyalty and attachment of His Highness to the throne of His Imperial Majesty, and Cooch Behar is now a recipient of the royal favour in no small degree.

His Highness' return and reception.

His Highness returned to India in February 1879 and after a short stay in Calcutta came up to Cooch Behar on the 3rd March following.

"He was enthusiastically received," writes Mr. Dalton, "not even the faintest sign appearing of any disposition on the part of his family or of the public to hold aloof or look coldly upon his travels.

"He never had a day's illness while out of India and he has returned much improved in every way ; and so far from being estranged from his subjects and his native land, he appears to me to take a more intelligent interest in them than I ever before marked in him."

EDUCATION IN CALCUTTA.

Law student in the Presidency College.

After His Highness' return from Europe he joined the Presidency College in Calcutta in 1879 as a law student. The Woodlands, a large house in Alipur, was rented for the Maharaja and was thoroughly repaired, improved, decorated and furnished. This house, which was subsequently purchased by the State in 1883, has since been used for Their Highness' Calcutta residence. As His Highness was desirous of improving his knowledge of Bengali and continuing other studies, the services of an assistant tutor were engaged in May 1879. The post was given to Babu Priyanath Ghosh, M.A., who was after the Installation appointed Personal Assistant to His Highness.

Education of Her Highness.

At the express desire of the Maharaja, arrangement was at this time made for giving Her Highness thorough education in English, music and other accomplishments.

INSTALLATION.

Sir Rivers Thompson made over charge.

His Highness completed his twenty-first year on the 3rd October 1883. The installation, however, did not take place till the 8th November. The charge of the State was made over by His Honor Sir Rivers Thompson, the Lieutenant-Governor, and his friendly address to the newly installed Maharaja was concluded with these memorable words:—

"I congratulate you, Maharaja, upon your accession to your principality. You stand forth this day not at all as succeeding to a princely inheritance to be used in the gratification of selfish or ambitious aims, but as the representative of more than half a million of subjects whom God has committed to your trust. Be faithful to that trust, so that when it comes to you in the common fate to lay down principality and power, the rejoicing may be that you have earned the commendations of your conscience and the gratitude of posterity."

His Highness' noble resolution.

And His Highness took upon himself the heavy responsibilities of his position with an equally noble resolution: "It shall be my earnest endeavour to do justice to the great trust which I now undertake." Noble words these, and the history of the last 18 years of the present rule must have shown that they were not uttered in vain.

The following short account of the installation is culled from the report of Rai Calica Doss Dutt Bahadur, C. I. E., Dewan of the State:—

"Though His Highness completed his 21st year on the 3rd October 1883, the Installation did not take place and he did not assume the charge of the State till November. He was anxious to have suitable arrangements made for the celebration of

the event, and to invite most of his distinguished native friends. The subject was discussed in March 1883. A rough estimate, amounting to about Rs. 2,00,000, was prepared under the directions of His Highness, and shown to the Commissioner, who, in consultation with the Government of Bengal, ordered the Deputy Commissioner to make all preliminary arrangements. The preparation thus began. His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal promised to come to Cooch Behar to perform the ceremony. A large number of European and native guests was expected. House accommodation was insufficient ; portions of the old palace had been pulled down and the new palace was not ready. It was, therefore, necessary to make temporary arrangements for the accommodation of the guests. Many new tents were bought, and the Government lent us some. Temporary Bungalows were put up, and some of the office buildings were got ready for native guests with large retinues. All the houses and tents were suitably furnished with things procured for the purpose from Calcutta.

"The guests could come by rail as far as Mogalhat. We had to take charge of them at that place, and make all arrangements for bringing them and their men to Cooch Behar, a distance of 24 miles. Carriages and horses were bought and hired. Palki-bearers and carts in large numbers were engaged ; there were, besides, the State elephants for carrying servants and luggage. We had also to arrange for conveyances required by the guests for going about at Cooch Behar after their arrival.

"It was satisfactory that our arrangements were equal to all requirements. Feeding arrangements had to be made on an extensive scale. Mr. Dalton was in charge of all arrangements for Europeans ; he had to get everything he wanted from Calcutta. I made all preparations for natives. Trained-up men were brought from Calcutta and Burdwan for preparing good sweet-meats and no pains and expense were spared. All the officers of the State from the highest to the lowest were anxious to please the guests and visitors.

"His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor and suite arrived on the 4th November. The European and native guests poured in soon afterwards, and the festivities commenced. Amongst the native guests there were the Maharaja-Dhiraj Bahadur of Burdwan, Raja Pramatha Nath Rai Bahadur of Dighapatia, Kumar Indra Chandra Sing of Paikpara, Nawab Abdul Lateef Khan Bahadur, C.I.E., Pundit Mohesh Chandra Nyayaratna, C.I.E., Babu Mohima Ranjan Ray Chowdhury of Kankina, the Zemindar of Lakhipur, Pundits from Nabadwipa and Bikrampore, and others. There

was a ball for European guests on the night of the 7th. For native guests we had performances of the Star Theatre Company and of Moti Lall Ray's Jatra, dancing etc. All the *majlishes* were tastefully decorated.

"An exhibition of all articles of local produce and manufacture was held under the superintendence of Kumar Gajendra Narayan (Jr.). Many visitors from other districts took interest in it. There was a display of life-size Krishnaghur figures, which proved very popular amongst the people. We had also athletic sports and wrestling.

"The actual ceremony took place at noon on the 8th November in the pavilion specially put up on the parade ground for the occasion. This pavilion had been beautifully ornamented. His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor sat on a raised dais covered with cloth of gold. The European guests and His Highness the Maharaja's relatives occupied seats on the left side below the dais, and the native guests and officials, headed by the Maharaja of Burdwan, sat on the right. His Highness the Maharaja was, on his arrival, conducted to the dais by the Commissioner Lord H. Ulick Browne and the Political Secretary Mr. Peacock. He was addressed suitably by the Lieutenant-Governor and conducted to a second seat on the dais. The Maharaja made a short speech acknowledging his obligations to the British Government and the services rendered to his State by different officers. He then presented his chief officers to the Governor. *Attar* and *pan* were distributed and the ceremony thus concluded. The usual salutes were fired and the Durbar formalities strictly observed. A company of the 33rd Native Infantry and the Cooch Behar Palace guards served as the Guard of Honour. Hundreds of men, including the principal jotedars of the State, had been accommodated with seats in the pavilion. The crowd outside, though very large, was orderly, and there was not the slightest hitch anywhere. Perfect solemnity prevailed and the sight was very imposing.

"There was a State dinner in the evening of the 8th November, and it was followed by a splendid display of fire-works under the superintendence of Messrs. Price & Co. of Calcutta. The whole town was also very tastefully illuminated; the effect of the illumination was pronounced to be very pretty.

"The speeches made by His Honor the Lieutentant-Governor and His Highness the Maharaja at the Installation Durbar are reproduced below :—

HIS HONOR'S SPEECH.

"*Maharaja Nripendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur*,—I am present here to-day to formally transfer to your personal rule

this State of Cooch Behar, which owing to your long minority has been now for 20 years under British control. I speak in no conventional terms of gratification, when I say that it is an exceedingly great pleasure to me to preside by virtue of my office at this ceremony; because in the first place I have had the pleasure of knowing you now for several years and have the confidence (which I don't think is misplaced) that in delegating authority to you we are delegating that which is not only yours by rightful inheritance, but by the fair equipment of your mental and bodily powers to the exercise of the prerogatives of a high position; and, secondly, because in discharging finally the trust which the Government had assumed and has exercised for these many years, it does so with the justifiable consciousness of a duty which has been successfully and honourably fulfilled. I have the less hesitation in saying this, because personally I can claim nothing of the praise which is due to those who have laboured incessantly for your interests in the advancement of this State; but I should be wanting in my duty if I failed to take advantage of this the first public opportunity which I have had of testifying to the merits of an administration, which in the hands of my friend, Lord Ulick Browne, the present Commissioner of the Rajshye Division, has achieved results in the well-ordered organisation of a State which has now to be transferred to your own management

"I have not time, even if the occasion called for it, to enter upon any detailed review of British Administration of the Cooch Behar State since your father's death. But to those who may be curious to know these particulars, I would say that the paper which I hold in my hand and which will be shortly published, contains a succinct and clear statement from the pen of Mr. Dalton, the Deputy Commissioner, of the condition of the State when British Administration commenced in 1863, and of the initiation and progress of the vigorous reforms in all departments which have marked that administration up to the present date. If I may very briefly summarise that report, it tells us that while the great departments of Civil and Criminal Justice, embracing the subordinate branches, the work of the Courts of all grades, the Police and the Jails, have been modelled upon the familiar systems which prevail in British India, they have been adapted in many details to the particular condition and circumstances of the people and the district. In addition to these it may be noted that the 20 years of our management have seen the establishment of an Education Department; that whereas in 1864 there were two schools in the State with 150 pupils, there are now 330

schools with nearly 10,000 students, of which 24 containing 300 children are for female education.

"Similarly, a Public Works Department mainly under the direction of a native Superintendent of Works, Babu Govinda Chandra Roy, records great triumphs in the completion of an excellent plan of well-laid out and well-bridged roadways, connecting the capital of the State with the Bengal Railways, and soon about to inaugurate a railway system of its own. More recently a Forest and Agricultural Department has been added to your list, and I am glad to know that the latter has found a qualified and intelligent administrator in a relation of your own, who has fitted himself for its special duties by a successful course at the Royal College of Agriculture at Cirencester. Postal and Telegraphic communications are well established throughout your territory. Of course it may be said that all these, after all, are but the beginning of civilization, and that as large spending departments they take a great deal out of the treasury and bring little or nothing in. I would observe then that a good beginning is more than half the battle won, and as complimentary to the departments that pay, even the departments that spend are excellent investments. I commend to your careful supervision the efficient maintenance of all these institutions. I take it that no man would be called a wise proprietor, much less a wise ruler, who neglected the principle that a progressive expenditure is necessary to meet the claims and necessities of his own position and those of his people; and that to allow roads and education and developments to lapse from niggardly regards of an over-cautious economy would tend to forfeit all, because any decline in the standard of the intelligence and independence of the people must in the end be followed by an impoverished treasury. In the case of Cooch Behar, however, the most remarkable progress has been in the development of its wealth and agricultural resources, and certainly looking to the achievements which your able and experienced Dewan has effected in a complete survey of the State, in a detailed settlement of the land and the registration and records of all individual rights in the soil, you have secured results which in repressing litigation and in establishing fixity of tenure on reasonable rent-rates, give the best securities of a prosperous and peaceable peasant-proprietary. I urge upon your serious attention the continuous maintenance of that record, as the charter of the rights of your people in their agricultural possessions, expressing my strongest conviction that a settlement of the land, based on moderate assessments and for periods of sufficient duration to call forth the energies of the cultivating classes in effecting

improvement, assures not only the happiness and contentment of the great bulk of the population, but is your best security for their loyalty and attachment in times when troubles come and adversity presses. I am glad to receive the intimation that your treasury is well filled and that you commence your official life with a considerable investment in the public securities, supplemented by an annual income which is four-fold greater than your father enjoyed. I believe I am right in the supposition that I am speaking to one who knows the value of money and the beneficent purposes which it can subserve in the work of Government; and above all, and perhaps the suggestion is not unimportant, that you have learnt the difficult lesson of being able to say 'No.' The acquisition is none the less difficult, because its value is great, specially in the conduct of public concerns, because it is so easy to make concessions to satisfy one's own inclination of doing kindness and giving pleasure to those whom one would wish to please. I understand that you have yourself sketched out the arrangements under which your future administration is to be conducted, and it confirms me in the view of the good sense and good judgment which, I trust, will characterise the whole of your work. You have arranged for a system of Council under which the Revenue, Civil and Criminal Administration of the country is to be in the hands of officers selected by yourself, men well-experienced in business, and who, while discharging their own special duties, will co-operate with you as their President in the conduct of the general affairs of the State. I think this is quite the best form of administration which you can adopt, not as an excuse for frequent absenteeism on your part or the delegation of your own burdens to other shoulders, but on the condition that you assume yourself your rightful place as the head of the Government of the State and accept to the full the high responsibilities of your exalted position. You have enjoyed the advantage of a residence in England and in your intercourse with Englishmen, both at home and in this country, have gained, I know, the esteem and regard of many friends. You have acquired not only a mastery of our language but some insight into our ways, manners, and habits without, I am glad to think, any imitation of our vices. You have an appreciation, I believe, of the kindly sentiment and good feeling which Englishmen entertain for the advancement of the people of India in the path of all real and true progress. You can immensely further that cause in your own person by making the independent management of your native State by native agency, a model of administration, assured at all times of the sincere goodwill of the paramount power, to whom you own a tributary allegiance, and of

their willingness to support and protect you, as long as your rule is conducted on the British principles of equity, lenity and justice.

'I congratulate you, Maharaja, upon your accession to your principality. You stand forth this day, not at all as succeeding to a princely inheritance to be used in the gratification of selfish or ambitious aims, but as the representative of more than half a million of subjects whom God has committed to your trust. Be faithful to the trust, so that when it comes to you, in the common fate, to lay down principality and power, the rejoicing may be that you have earned the commendation of your own conscience and the gratitude of posterity."

HIS HIGHNESS' REPLY.

"Your Honor,

"I desire publicly to express my grateful recognition of the many obligations by which I myself individually and my State are bound to the British Government, and to assure you of my unfaltering loyalty to Her Gracious Majesty's Government at the hands of whose representatives I have ever received such consideration and under whose fostering care my country so materially prospered.

"It is with much pleasure I acknowledge the unwearying interest in all that concerns me and mine on the part of my esteemed friend, Lord Ulick Browne; to Mr. Dalton and Rai Calica Doss Dutt Bahadur my thanks are in no less a measure due for their able administration of my affairs. In conclusion, I would tender to Your Honor my keen appreciation of the honour done me in coming to this remote corner of Bengal to place me on the *guddi* of my fathers. It shall be my earnest endeavour to do justice to the great trust which I now undertake."

"His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor left Cooch Behar on the 9th November; in the afternoon of the same day His Highness held a Durbar of his own and received Nazzurs. The proclamation constituting the State Council and defining the main lines on which the country was to be governed, was read at this Durbar. Some prisoners were released. The title of Choudhury was conferred on Mahomed Kheru of Shitai who had built a bridge, and allowances were granted to certain pundits who had completed their education at Navadwipa.

"The guests and visitors began to leave Cooch Behar from the 10th November. There was the same rush as at the time of coming. The bustle did not subside till the 15th November, when all was again quiet, and every one returned to his ordinary vocation. Soon after the Installation the charge of European

guests was made over by Mr. Dalton to Captain A. Evans-Gordon, Superintendent of the State.

"Special sanitary arrangements were made for the Installation fortnight; these proved very successful, and it was very fortunate that the public health was very good throughout the period. The offices remained closed for 12 days from the 4th to the 15th November."

CHILDREN.

Birth of an heir.

On the 11th April 1882, Her Highness gave birth to a son and heir at Calcutta and great rejoicings both at Calcutta and Cooch Behar celebrated this happy event. A sum of Rs. 25,000 was sanctioned by the Commissioner for the celebration, Rs. 15,000 being allotted to Calcutta and Rs. 10,000 to Cooch Behar. The *annaprasan* or rice-eating ceremony of the young Maharajkumar was performed in January 1883, Their High-Highnesses having brought their son and heir to Cooch Behar for this event. The Maharajkumar was named Raj Rajendra Narayan.

Education of Maharaj-kumar.

The Maharajkumar was at first educated at home. On the 5th February 1893 he was admitted into the Mayo College, Ajmere. Mr. B. Ghose, who had received a good education in England, was appointed the Maharajkumar's private tutor. An account of the circumstances which led to the sending of the young prince to Ajmere, is quoted below from the Dewan's report on the subject :—

"For sometime past Your Highness had been anxious to make some suitable arrangement for the prince's education. It was necessary to keep him in a healthy place and in the charge of a gentleman who would take a fatherly interest in his welfare. It was necessary that the surroundings should be good. His Excellency the Governor-General and His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor were graciously pleased to interest themselves in this matter, and permission was at length obtained for getting the Maharajkumar admitted into the Mayo College. I was directed in January to take him to Ajmere and settle details regarding expenditure in consultation with Colonel W. Loch, the Principal of the Institution. I proceeded to Calcutta on the 1st February and after having received instructions from Her Highness the Maharani left that place for Ajmere with the Maharajkumar on the 5th. We reached Ajmere on the 8th and the Maharajkumar was admitted into the 4th class of the Mayo College on the following day. At one time I feared that the Rajput boys would not readily mix with a Bengali prince; but this fear was soon dispelled. The charming manners of the Maharajkumar won the hearts of his fellow-students who soon began to become

Entered Mayo College at Ajmere.

his friends. He came here during the last summer vacation and Your Highness could see what satisfactory progress was made by him in his studies during the short period he had been in the College. The arrangements made by Colonel Loch have proved very satisfactory."

In 1894, the Maharajkumar was promoted to the 3rd class. The second language taught in the 3rd class was Sanskrit. His Highness, however, wished that the Maharajkumar should read Bengali; a tutor was, therefore, especially appointed for this purpose. The conduct of the young prince, both in and out of the College, was reported to be very satisfactory and he obtained the first prize in poetry-recitation and a good conduct medal.

Education in England.

In 1894, the Maharajkumar was removed from the Mayo College with a view to his being educated in England. On the 1st May of that year His Highness went to England with his son and made suitable arrangements for his education there. After one year's stay in the Preparatory school at Faraborough, the Maharajkumar entered Eton in 1897.

While studying at Eton the Maharajkumar paid his first visit to the State in 1898, arriving on the first day of February. Under orders of His Highness an official reception was accorded to him. The Maharajkumar was received at the Gitaldah Ghat by the Superintendent of Police and the Sub-divisional Officer of Dinhata, and at Torsa by the Dewan of the State, the Private Secretary to His Highness, the Fauzdari Ahilkar, the Civil Surgeon, the Principal, Victoria College, the Personal Assistant to His Highness, the Superintendent of Works, the Duar Muktear and an Aide-de-Camp. A guard of honor was drawn up on the platform of the Torsa station, who presented arms and a salute of nine guns was fired.

Insignia of the heir-apparent.

As heir-apparent to the throne, His Highness was pleased to allow the Maharajkumar the following insignia and distinctions :—

A salute of nine guns, one horse with Danka, one horse suitably caparisoned, one elephant with *Jhul*, two sowars, two flags, one gold umbrella, one gold *Arani*, one peacock-feather punkha, one *Murchal*, two *Khasbardars*, two *Bhaplabardars*, two gold *Ballams*, two silver *Ballams*, two gold *Asha Shotas*, two silver *Asha Shotas*, one silver *Jhari*, one silver *Shorai*, two gold *Chamars*, sixteen sepoys under a Havildar, and eight constables under a Head-constable.

Appointment to a Commission.

The Maharajkumar is still in England prosecuting his studies at Christ Church, Oxford, and has recently been appointed to a Commission in the Imperial Yeomanry, London.

Their Highnesses have got three other sons and three daughters. The second child is Maharajkumari Sukriti Sundari Devi, who was born on the 15th January 1884. She was married to Mr. Jyotsna Ghosal of the Indian Civil Service, son of Mr. Janaki Nath Ghosal and a grandson (daughter's son) of Babu Devendra Nath Tagore of Calcutta, on the 29th November 1899. The ceremony was performed at Woodlands in Alipur with great pomp. His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Bengal, the Hon'ble Justices Chandra Madhub Ghosh and Gurudas Banerji, and the Maharaja Bahadur of Burdwan graced the assembly with their presence. Rev. Protap Chunder Majumdar of the New Dispensation Church officiated as minister, and the marriage was registered under Act III of 1872 by Babu Narendra Nath Sen. Marriage of Maharajkumari.

In commemoration of the occasion all State offices were closed for 6 days. Three life-convicts were released from the Port Blair Penal Settlement, and three prisoners from the Cooch Behar Jail. Life-pensions amounting to Rs. 1,224 per annum, and remissions of revenue amounting to Rs. 25,000 in the Chaklajat Estates, and Rs. 12,000 in the Cooch Behar State itself were granted by His Highness in honor of the occasion. Alms were distributed throughout the State, as well as at Devigunj and Benares.

On the evening of the marriage the town of Cooch Behar was illuminated, and at the hour fixed for the wedding ceremony, a salute of seven guns was fired to celebrate the occasion.

Maharajkumar Jitendra Narayan was born on the 20th December 1886. The third Maharajkumar was born on the 21st May 1888. In deference to Her late Majesty the Empress Victoria's gracious pleasure to stand godmother to the child, the boy was named Victor Nityendra Narayan. Maharajkumar Hitendra Narayan was born on the 1st July 1890. The last two children are daughters, of whom Maharajkumari Pratibha Sundari Devi was born on the 22nd November 1891, and Maharajkumari Sudhira Sundari Devi on the 7th March 1894. Other children.

All the children are being suitably educated. The second and the third Maharajkumars are receiving their education in England, they being at Eton. Their education.

HEALTH.

His Highness is of strong constitution and has generally kept good health throughout. Attacks of illness have been but few, and, with the exception of one, not of a serious nature.

The most serious illness took place in 1884, when His Highness with Her Highness and the Maharajkumar dangerously fell Typhoid fever in 1884.

ill of fever of a typhoid nature at Simla ; fears for His Highness' life were at one time felt at the capital.

His Highness was, however, mercifully spared. And the universal expressions of sympathy, which his illness evoked among the inhabitants of the State at large and which was manifested in *sankirtan* parties and special services in mosques and temples alike, were succeeded by general thanks-giving on his recovery.

In 1896, His Highness caught malaria while out shooting in Assam. The illness having proved obstinate he had to make a trip to England to recoup his health ; he came back fully recovered in February 1897 to the great rejoicing of his people.

MILITARY SERVICES.

Bhutan war and Lushai expedition.

For the services rendered by the State during his minority in the Bhutan War (1863-64) two guns were presented to His Highness by the British Government. The Cooch Behar troops also took part in the Lushai Campaign in the North-East Frontier, and their services were duly acknowledged by Government by the award of medals.

Delhi Camp of Exercises.

Though he holds only an honorary rank in the army, His Highness has never missed an opportunity to make himself thoroughly acquainted with the duties of a soldier. The Maharaja has on several occasions joined his own regiment, the Prince of Wales' Own (VI Bengal Cavalry), and also served on the 17th Bengal Lancers. At the Delhi camp of exercises, he got himself attached to the Commander-in-chief Sir Frederick (now Lord) Roberts' staff as an orderly officer and gained a great deal of experience of field operations, which proved so useful to him later on in the Tirah Campaign. Whenever there were any disturbances on the North-West Frontier, His Highness was the first to offer his personal services. Whether it was the proposed misson to Jelalabad or the Chitral Relief Force, he was prepared to accompany them, and the offers of his services were always acknowledged and appreciated by Government. On the occasion of the threatened outbreak of war in the Pamirs, Central Asia, in 1885, His Highness not only offered his personal services but expressed his willingness to strengthen the military forces of Government by placing one thousand troops fully equipped at their disposal for employment at the Buxa Duars on the Bhutan Frontier. In acknowledging this offer Sir Rivers Thompson, the then Lieutenant-Governor, said in his letter of the 23rd April 1885: "I am sure there is no native chief in the whole country upon whose loyal devotion to the British Government we could more certainly rely than yourself."

Offer of services with Jelalabad mission.

Chitral relief force, and in the Pamirs.

Thanked by Sir Rivers Thompson.

TIRAH CAMPAIGN.

Parts taken in the campaign.

The tribes on the North-West Frontier of India having taken up arms against the British Government, an expedition on a large scale was sent to quiet the disturbance. His Highness was the first native Prince to offer his services, which were most graciously accepted by Her Majesty the late Queen-Empress of India. His Highness joined the campaign in September 1897 on the staff of the late General Yeatman-Biggs. He was present at the fight which took place on the Shamana range during September. General Yeatman-Biggs thanked His Highness in his despatch, describing the Kohat-Kurrum operations. His Highness next joined the Tirah Expeditionary Force and marched towards the Sampaga Pass with the second division under General Yeatman-Biggs. He was present at the taking of Dargai on the 20th October and entered Tirah with the Force. General Sir William Lockhart acknowledged His Highness' services in his despatch and they were fully recognised by the Secretary of State for India. His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India in an autograph letter conveyed to His Highness the congratulations of Her late Majesty the Queen-Empress. When the difficult work in the Tirah valley was nearly over, His Highness returned to Calcutta in November.

Welcome by his people.

The successful termination of the campaign gave general satisfaction, and the people and officers of the State were happy to welcome back His Highness from the country of the treacherous Afridis. "They were," writes the Dewan in his Annual Report for 1897-98, "anxious to accord you a hearty reception in your State. I had the honor of meeting you at Gitaldah where you entered your territory. Thousands of people were present on the river bank to pay their respects. There were triumphal arches at different places. All the railway stations were decorated and large numbers of people welcomed you everywhere; hundreds of songs in your praise had been composed, and they were sung at different places as you passed. The Superintendent of the State and the Civil and Sessions Judge received Your Highness at the Torsa Station and you were received by the people in general on the left bank of the Torsa, where *shamianas* and tents had been pitched. Addresses were presented and replies given. Maharaj-kumar Jitendra Narayan stood behind Your Highness' seat while this was going on, and Mr. Henry, Inspector-General of Police, Bengal, and Mrs. Henry were amongst the visitors."

Created Companion of the Bath.

In recognition of the services rendered in the Tirah Campaign Her late Gracious Majesty was pleased to create His Highness a Companion of the Bath.

Lord Elgin's letter of congratulation.

The following letter was received by His Highness from His Excellency the Viceroy, Lord Elgin, on his return from the Frontier :—

"I desire to congratulate Your Highness on your safe return from the frontier. I was entrusted by the Queen-Empress to make known the great satisfaction with which she had heard of the offers of personal services by the Princes and Chiefs of India on this occasion, and it is with great pleasure that I communicate to Your Highness Her Majesty's approval. I hope I may also express, on behalf of the Government of India, our appreciation of Your Highness' zeal and loyalty in these troubled times."

Offer of services in the Transvaal war.

Again, when the Transvaal War broke out in 1899, His Highness was the first amongst the Indian Princes to volunteer his personal services for employment on the staff of Sir Redvers Buller, and obtained the permission of His Excellency Lord Curzon ; but the Government of India subsequently informed him in their letter of the 16th September 1899, that the conditions in South Africa would not allow of his loyal offer being accepted by Her Majesty's Government though it was much appreciated.

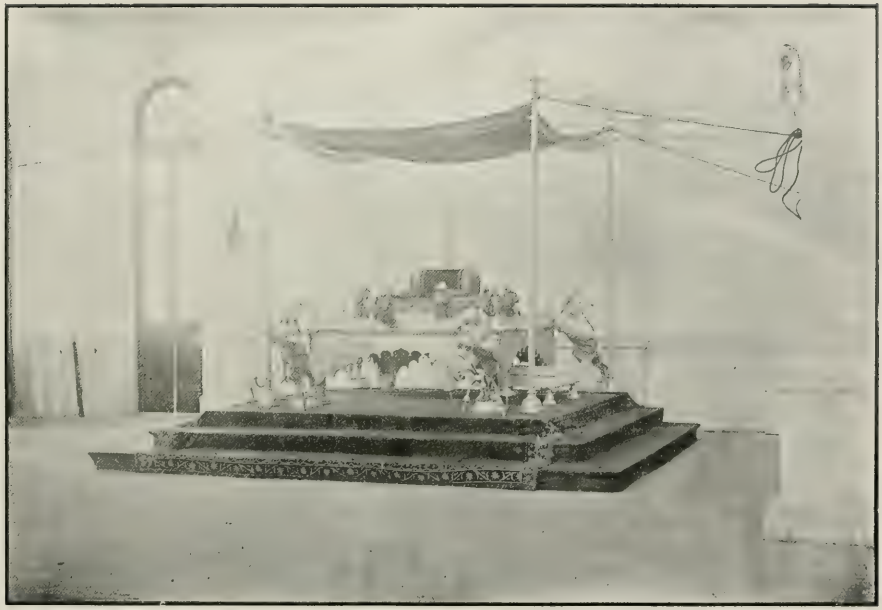
INSTITUTIONS FOUNDED BY HIS HIGHNESS.

His Highness established the India Club at Calcutta in 1882, founded the Nripendranarayan Hall at Jalpaiguri in 1883, and presented the house and land at Darjeeling, with which the Lowis Jubilee Sanitarium was started at that station in 1887. In 1888, he established the Navabidhan Samaj or the Reformed Brahmo church in the town of Cooch Behar and founded the Victoria College for the high education of the people in the same year. He opened the Anandamayi Dharmashala in 1890, and the Narendranarayan Park in 1894. A Freemasons' Lodge was established in the town of Cooch Behar under the name of "Lodge Nripendra Narayan" in May 1897. His Highness is the Patron of the Cooch Behar Mutual Provident Fund started in 1888, and of the Cooch Behar Club founded in 1897.

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES HE BELONGS TO.

His Highness is a member of the following clubs in London :—Marlborough ; Cavalry; Portland; Prince's; Queen's ; Ranelagh; Roehampton ; and he is an Honorary member of the following :—Hurlingham, and Marylebone Cricket Club.

The Maharaja is also a member of the following clubs in India :—United Service Club, Simla ; Wheeler Club, Meerut ; Himalayan Club, Mussoorie ; Darjeeling Club ; the Calcutta Turf Club ; the Saturday Club (Calcutta); the Tollygunge Club ; the Unceremonials; the Calcutta Cricket, Racquet and Polo Clubs.



THE *SINHÁSANA.*—*Page 437.*

He is the founder and life-President of the India Club, Calcutta; Councillor of the Lady Dufferin Fund; member of the Pasteur Institute, the Indian Science Association, and the Photographic Society of India; a life-member of the *Bangiya Sahitya Parisad* (Literary Society of Bengal); and a Patron of the Indian Sangita Samaj.

He is a Fellow of the Royal Colonial Society, the Imperial Institute, the Society for the Encouragement of Indian Arts and the Society of Arts and Sciences.

His Highness' Creed.

His Highness belongs to the New Dispensation Church of the Brahmo Samaj, and all domestic ceremonies in his family, such as *Nama-karana*, *Diksha*, marriage &c., are regulated by the tenets of that creed. He has established the New Dispensation Church in the town of Cooch Behar and has suitably endowed it. He has also started a Boarding Institution for Brahmo boys. For the spread of the reformed faith he belongs to, both within his own State and elsewhere, he has contributed liberally.

Titles and Distinctions.

The rulers of Cooch Behar have all along borne the title of Maharaja Bhup Bahadur. This was recognised as hereditary in the present ruler by the Government of India in 1883. His Highness was appointed Honorary Major in the British Army on the 22nd August of the same year, and was attached to the 6th Bengal Cavalry. When he visited England in the Jubilee year of 1887, to take part in the rejoicings on the occasion of the Jubilee of the reign of Her late Majesty Empress Victoria, with Her Highness the Maharani and children, he was invested with the Insignia of the Knight Grand Commander of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire by Her Most Gracious Majesty herself, on the 23rd February 1888. When conferring this distinguished honor, Her late Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress wrote to the Maharani: "I am going to invest him (Maharaja) with the Grand Cross of the Indian Empire, and am much pleased to award thereby my respect and friendship for him." Her Highness also was invested on this occasion with the Imperial Order of the Crown of India. His Highness was made Honorary Aide-de-Camp to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and invested with the Honorary Rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in the British Army, on the 30th July 1887. He was created a Companion of the Bath on the 20th May 1898. Only recently His Highness has been appointed Aide-de-Camp to His Majesty King Edward VII with the rank of Colonel in the Army.

As it would be interesting to have on record the style of address adopted by the Deva and Dharma Rajas of Bhutan, while writing to the Maharaja of Cooch Behar, it is given below :—

"স্বস্তি প্রাতরুদীয়মান দিনমনি মণ্ডল প্রবিজিত্তর নিজভুজবল প্রতাপ তাপিত শত্রুসমূহ পূজিতাখিল বেহারেশ্বর শ্রীশ্রীমহারাজা জিউ বিসম সমর পঞ্চাননেষু"।

MASONIC TITLES.

His Highness is a Past Grand Senior Warden of England; Past Deputy District Grand Master of Bengal; Past District Grand Mark Master of Bengal; Past Grand Senior Warden of Mark Masters of England; Past Grand Principal Conductor of Work on the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of England and Wales, Colonies and Dependencies of the British Crown; Past Grand Senior Warden of the Grand Council of Allied Masonic degrees of England and Wales; and Past District Grand H of Bengal.

STATE INSIGNIA.

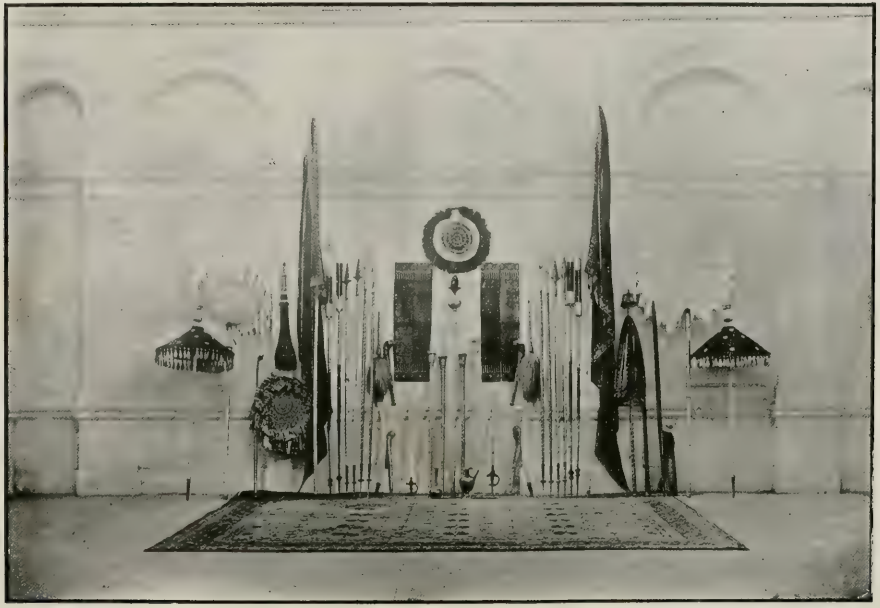
The following are the insignia of His Highness :—

(1.) Silver *Sinhasana* with golden canopy; (2.) *Hanuman-Danda* or monkey-sceptre (royal sceptre); (3.) White umbrella (royal chhatra); (4.) *Pani Chhatra*; (5.) Gold umbrella; (6.) White *Arani*; (7.) Gold *Arani*; (8.) Peacock-feather punkha; (9.) Peacock-feather *Murchal*; (10.) *Khanda*; (11.) *Khash*; (12.) *Bhapla*; (13.) Silver *Ballam*; (14.) Gold *Ballam*; (15.) *Chob*; (16.) *Jhari*; (17.) *Shorai*; (18.) *Chamar*; (19.) Bow; (20.) Flag; (21.) *Pat* elephant; (22.) Elephant with *Donka*; (23.) Horse with *Donka*; (24.) Horse suitably caparisoned; (25.) Cavalry; (26.) Sepoy guard of honor; (27.) Band; (28.) Police guard of honor; (29.) A salute of 13 guns.

The *Hanuman Danda* and the white *Chhatra* are very old emblems of sovereignty, having their origin in the time of Maharaja Visva Sinha, as related in a foregoing chapter. The *Pani chhatra* represents the Royal Umbrella of Assam which was conquered in the reign of Maharaja Naranarayan.

Coat of arms.

The Cooch Behar Coat of Arms consists of a badge with two swords resting cross-wise within it and supporting on their points a pair of scales. It is supported on the right by a crowned lion and on the left by an elephant. The whole is surmounted by a *Hanuman* or monkey sitting on a globe and having a crown on its head and a club in either hand. Beneath the badge under two branches of rose placed one across the other, lies the motto engraved in relief in a curve—যতো ধর্ম্ম স্ততো জয়ঃ " *Yato-dharma stato jayah,*" meaning "where there is virtue there is victory."



Electrotype Survey of India Offices, Calcutta, 1903.

THE STATE INSIGNIA *Page 438.*

Pani-Chhatra	Balkan (gold and silver)	Peacock-feather Pankha
White Arani	Chamar	Gold Jhari
Gold Arani	Shotas and Khara	Gold Umbrella
Peacock-feather Murchal	Khos	Bow and Arrows
Flag	Gold Sorai	White Umbrella
Bhapla	Hanumandanda (Royal Sceptre)	Pani-Chhatra

PUBLIC LIFE.

His Highness holds the annual shoot in the Duars at the end of the cold weather. The Punneah Durbar is held after the close of the official year when the public have the gratification of beholding the Maharaja on the *Sinhasana* and witnessing the pomp and grandeur of an Oriental Court. The officers and the *Durbaris* entitled to the privilege are presented to His Highness. They then present *nazars* according to the fixed scale, for which suitable *emdads* are afterwards bestowed on them. After the distribution of the *nazars* the Dewan is formally authorised by His Highness to declare the Punneah open and receive the revenue for the new year. The Durbar is closed with the usual distribution of *mala* and *chandan* and *attar* and *pan*. Punneah ceremony.

While at Cooch Behar His Highness presides at the meetings of the State Council and joins his ministers in supervising such details of the administrative work as come up before that body. During his absence from the capital matters of importance are invariably sent up to him for orders. Wherever he happens to be he takes keen and personal interest in the government of his State and the welfare of his subjects. Public business.

Having derived the benefit of European education himself, His Highness is naturally partial to it and to all that is good in the West ; but he is none the less a lover of his country and his nationality. He holds most advanced views on every subject, whether social, religious or administrative. He is in these matters much ahead of his subjects. Yet he takes most kindly to his land, his kindred and his people. Although he holds most reformed ideas of morality and religion he is not intolerant of the superstitions of his subjects, and does not interfere with their honest religious beliefs. He encourages and supports the institutions of every creed, be it Hindu, Musalman, Christian or Brahmo. Tolerant spirit

His Highness' Relatives.

MAHARAJKUMARI ANANDAMAYI.

Maharajkumari Anandamayi was the elder sister of His Highness and was born on the 4th Sravan 1267, B.E. She grew up to be a handsome and accomplished girl. She was educated both in Bengali and English and was under the tutelage of an English lady for about three years. She could write Bengali very well and specimens of her early handwriting and that of her two brothers are to be found among the papers of the Council Record office. When about 8 years old, she was married to Kumar (afterwards Raja) Jogendranarayan of Panga on the 20th January 1868, and a dower of Rs 6,000 per annum was settled upon her. Scarcely, however, had a couple of years passed when in 1869 the Zemin- Birth, education and marriage. Widow-hood

der of Panga suddenly died of cholera in Calcutta and the poor princess was left a widow even before she was a wife.

Very little now remains to be recorded of the young Hindu widow's life except that she lived in Cooch Behar well cared for by the State.

Last illness and death.

In September 1887, the Maharajkumari accompanied her grand-mother the Dowager Maharani Kameswari Dangar Aye Devati to Benares. While there she got fever and left for Cooch Behar on the 2nd December 1887. A house was rented for her at Chinsurah where a rest was necessary. Her illness took a serious turn and she was put under the treatment of the Civil Surgeon of Hugly. The malady grew worse, however, and she expired on the 23rd December 1887.

Panga Estate.

Thus departed the loving sister of His Highness whose affection for him was ever strong and who always used the endearing term "Baba Kachua" or my little darling, towards her beloved brother. Even in her death she did not forget her little 'brother.' While dying at Chinsurah, she left a Will bequeathing all her property to His Highness. The Panga estate thus came to be vested in His Highness. With a view to preserve her memory in a suitable manner His Highness was pleased to have the Cooch Behar Dharmashala (Alms-house) constructed and dedicated to her name, and he personally opened it on the 4th May 1890.

Anandamayi Dharmashala.

DANGAR AYE.

Among the relatives of His Highness perhaps the most important personage was the late Maharani Kameswari Dangar Aye Devati. She was the senior widow of the late Maharaja Sivendra Narayan, and grand-mother of His Highness. She was at one time a joint manager of this State, and took an active and intelligent part in its administration. Her solicitude for the welfare of the people and her acts of charity made her very popular amongst all classes of the community, and she very worthily filled the high and responsible position of the head of the family during His Highness' long minority.

The Dangar Aye Devati retired to Benares in September 1887, leaving behind a large number of sorrowing friends and subjects. The venerable old lady died at Benares on the 7th March 1889. The Sradh ceremony was suitably performed at Cooch Behar. All the State courts and offices were closed for one day in honour of the memory of the deceased Maharani.

RAJGANS.

The blood-relations of His Highness are called *Rajgans.* They are all suitably maintained by the State by the grant of allowances, life-pensions and *petbhata* lands.

PART IV.
SURVEY AND SETTLEMENT.

CHAPTER I.

HISTORY OF LAND REVENUE SETTLEMENTS.

State of affairs before 1773.

No accurate information regarding the Settlement of Land Revenue of the country can be obtained for the period prior to its coming into contact with the English after the conclusion of the first Bhutan war by virtue of the Treaty of 1773. Nothing definite can be known as to the mode or principles of assessment followed in those days. No old records or papers are now in existence. The Rajopakshyan or the account of the kings of Cooch Behar, written in the reign of Maharaja Harendranarayan, is the only recorded history of the country now extant; but this too is more a personal narrative of the rulers than of the administration and the people. An account of the old institutions of the country is, therefore, now in a manner impossible to obtain, and when pushed back too far, it must be based only on surmises and conjectures.

Regular history begins after that year.

A regular history of the internal and more particularly of the Land Revenue administration of Cooch Behar begins with its connection with the British Government in 1773. Although the informations since available are far from being full and connected, they pretty fairly disclose the state of things as they existed before the advent of the English.

Lands divided into two kinds: Revenue-paying and Rent-free.

From very early times the land appears to have been divided into two kinds, (1) revenue-paying and (2) rent-free. Persons holding the first kind of land had to pay revenue to the State. The holders of rent-free land, on the other hand, were private individuals who obtained them for special purposes and enjoyed them free of any charge. The rent-free land was held for various purposes, such as, the performance of religious rites; the maintenance of Brahmins and men of learning; reward for good services done to the State; and maintenance of the relations and connections of the ruling family. And these lands were denominated *Debutter*, *Brahmatter*, *Lakheraj* and *Petbhata*, according to the purpose to which they were allotted. Lands were also granted to persons for doing personal service to the State, and these were called *Jaigirs*. These too were, strictly speaking, rent-free and were held by the grantee during the tenure of his service without paying any rent; but then the

Rent-free lands variously designated.

personal services done by these men represented the return the State obtained from the disposition of the lands.

Revenue-paying lands sub divided into *mal, debuttur,* and *Khangi.*

Revenue-paying lands were classified under *Mal, Debutter* and *Khangi.* The first was available for State Revenue ; the second was sequestrated for religious purposes ; and the third was set apart for the maintenance of the Maharaja's household. The *Khangi* lands subsequently disappeared as a separate class or mehal in 1864 when Colonel Haughton incorporated them with Mal lands. Similarly, after money-grants had been made for the performance of the religious rites and ceremonies of the State, the Debutter lands were diverted from their original purpose as no longer necessary, and were brought over to the State revenue-roll. The lands were, however, continued to be kept separate, and, with those under Mal, formed the two grand sources of the State revenue.

Khangi abolished in 1864

Persons paying the revenue called Jotedars.

The persons paying the charge on the land immediately to the State, or to the persons authorised to receive the same, were called *Jotedars* and formed the first grade in the tenancy of the country. Originally, these men were perhaps the cultivators of the soil and residents of the State, and the different grades of under-tenures did not probably exist. When Mr. Purling made the *Hustabood* or account of revenue in 1180 B.E., corresponding with 1774 A.D., previous to the amount of the tribute being fixed, he found that the revenue payable by the rayat consisted of two parts, namely, *assal* or original rent, and *abooab*, or additional cesses, which were then consolidated into one. There was, however, no fixity of this rental such as it was,and regular Pattahs were not granted to the tenants. The settlement of land revenue was made annually, but the land was never measured and assessment was made under no fixed rates, although 3 different rates* appear to have been in existence in the country from old time.[1] The practice which was generally followed was to settle the jama agreeably to that of the preceding year, and representations as to heavy assessment were attended to and remissions allowed afterwards. How the first and earliest settlement was made must, however, rest for ever in oblivion.

Revenue consisted of *rent* and *abooab.*

No fixity of rental.

Settlement made annually.

*For first kind of land, per bish ... Rs. 20
For the second kind, per bish ... Rs. 15
For the third, per bish ... Rs. 10
A bish is equal to 12 bighas and 16 kathas or about 13 bighas.

Collections made through Sajwals. *Muffasil Khurcha.*

The collection was made by the State through its own officers called *sajwals.* Over and above the rentals and abooabs, the rayats had to pay certain charges called *muffasil khurcha*, which were not included in the public accounts. These formed about a

[1] Mr. Ahmuty's report to the Board of Revenue in 1798. Cooch Behar Select Records, Vol. I, page 47, para 7.

fifth of the whole revenue. They consisted principally of *nuzzar* or *selami* to the State officers; of interest on money borrowed on the part of the rayats by persons employed in collections at a most exhorbitant rate[2] to make good arrears of rent, and of *talabana* or allowance to peons.

The system caused loss o revenue.

Sufficiently loose as the mode of assessment and the system of collection were, the disorganised state of the country before and after the first Bhutan war, coupled with the dishonesty and greed of the State officials, brought the affairs of the country to a most deplorable state.

"Since that time (1774)," writes Mr. Douglas in 1790, "it (revenue) has suffered a very considerable diminution owing principally to the mal administration of the Raja's minister, who has not only himself been guilty of the greatest oppressions but has also connived at them in his dependants. Large portions of land have been alienated, a variety of new taxes introduced, every species of abuse committed in the collection of revenue, and the administration of justice has been perverted to purposes of emolument. Thus harrassed and oppressed, numbers of the rayats were obliged to leave their native country, and the revenues falling short in consequence of this and from the alienation of of lands, the remaining inhabitants were obliged to make good the deficiency, many of the rayats who had left the country were encouraged to return by obtaining remissions of rent but they were again oppressed and fled." In 1180 B.E., the clear annual revenue of the country, exclusive of Jaigir and other private lands, amounted to about two lacs of Naraini rupees. After 15 years, in 1195 B.E., the revenue of the State including the whole of the Nazir Deo's, and part of Dewan Deo's, private lands, which had been confiscated in the interval, was only Rs. 1,41,230 Naraini and it suffered a further diminution in the following year when it amounted only to about 1,20,000 Naraini rupees.

Difficulties in the way of Khash collection.

The number of jotedars as could naturally be expected was large, and stood in the way of successful *khas* collection of revenue under a system of government not well organised and not properly adminstered. It was found more convenient to farm out the revenue-paying estates to outsiders who were made responsible for the State revenue. "The country," observes Mr. Douglas, "should

[2] "There is another circumstance which greatly tended towards the ruin of the country, I mean, the interest on money which has never been regulated except by the avarice of the lender and the necessities of the borrower, as that, in common 72 per cent has been considered as very moderate interest; and what almost exceeds belief, that in many instances which came to my immediate knowledge 360 per cent has been exacted." Report of Mr. Douglas, Commissioner, to Lord Cornwallis, Governor-General in 1790.—Cooch Behar Select Records Vol. I, page 29.

be let out in small farms of one or more villages for the farm. The system of holding the lands *khas* appears to be attended with many disadvantages. Considering the extent of the country containing perhaps twenty or thirty thousand rayats, it is impossible for the proprietor or his manager to be intimately acquainted with the circumstances of every individual. He, therefore, can not know when to assist the honest and industrious husbandman, and when to exact with rigour his revenue from the knavish rayat. Neither can he effectually superintend the conduct of the numerous officers required to collect the revenues directly from the rayats. Oppression may indeed be prevented, but it will be found impossible to discover frauds and collusion between these officers and the rayats. Besides, the officers have no interest in the improvement of the lands which will in consequence be neglected."[3]

Introduction of the Ijardari system in 1790.

These and similar other reasons led to the introduction of the Ijardari system of collection into the State by Mr. Douglas in 1790. In fact it was a necessity of the time for securing the State revenue, and khash collection requiring money and organisation and exercise of close supervision, was not possible under the loose form of government of those days.

Description of system.

The mode of settlement adopted under this system appears to have been the following :—

Settlement of the mehals with the highest bidder on approved security.

1. The country was divided into lots of one or more villages each and these were put up to auction and the highest terms tendered upon approved security were accepted. The jamas thus agreed upon by the farmers used to make up the revenue just in the same way as the revenue from Syrat Mehals is obtained at the present time.

Assessment of jotedar's jama.

2. The jamas payable by the jotedars to these farmers were generally settled agreeably to that of preceding year. When the lands were measured, which was not very usually done, the farmers made their assessments according to certain fixed rates. In the time of Mr. Douglas these rates were Rs. 20 per bish of 13 bighas of first class land; Rs. 15 per bish of second class land; and Rs. 10 per bish of third class land.

Term.

3. The settlements were at first made annually. From Mr. Ahmuty's time they were quinqunnial or for 5 years.

Profit of the Ijardars.

4. As their authorised share of profit the Ijardars used to collect from the rayats two charges called *Ijardari* and *Saranjami*,

[3] Mr. Douglas' report to the Governor-General—Select Records Vol. I, Page 45.

each forming one twelvth, and the two together one sixth, part of the jamas payable by the rayats.

Some mehals kept under Khash collection.

Such of the mehals as did not fetch adequate jamas by auction, or elicited no bid, were kept under khas collection. In these mehals also the jotedars were allowed to renew their leases on terms similar to those of the preceding year. Remissions were, however, granted "where", to quote Mr. Ahmuty, "from the lands being waste or other unpropetious circumstances, the assessment might appear too heavy and partial reduction become reasonable and just." Nor was the whole of the country ever attempted to be farmed out. Lands newly resumed from rent-free and other mehals used to be kept under khas collection for the first few years. Rahimgunj, being that part of Pargana Mekhligunj which lies west of the present Bura Tista, was from a long time also under khas management.

The evils of the Ijardar system.

This Ijardari system, however, on which Mr. Douglas had placed so sanguine expectation and hopes of reform, was destined to be equally unsuccessful, and give rise to greater abuses than was possible under the khas collection system. In fact the defect lay at the root of the administration, and an attempt at curing and reforming any particular branch of it without going to the source of the evil could not but be fruitless. In the first place, these annual and short term settlements with outsiders on the highest available bids, leaving the cultivators of the soil at almost absolute mercy of the farmers, who, by the way, were given such a pittance as a sixth part of the *Rayatari* jama, or only about 16 per cent, as profit or remuneration for their trouble and expenses of collection, could even under a good government have only one effect, and that was the ruin of the peasantry, which means the entire population in Cooch Behar. And this is what Mr. Ahmuty says of the working of the system in 1798, only seven years after its introduction:—

First: Peasantry ruined by short term settlements.

"The system adopted in former years was the mode to obtain the highest possible revenue for a short period, but, it appears from experience, ill calculated to promote the happiness of the people and the permanent prosperity of the country. Exclusive of the loss sustained by the proprietor the actual cultivators of the soil have suffered considerably from the lands being let at rack rent to individuals, many of whom could have no interest in their welfare, and who availed themselves of every opportunity of extorting from them as much as possible. Consequently whole villages deserted and retired into the adjacent districts of Rangpur and Dinajpur, where they found greater security and encuragement of their labour under the established regulations of Government, and

a difference of more than seventy thousand rupees was experienced in the jama of the year subsequent to 1201 B.E."[1]

Secondly; Ijardars mostly State amlas.

In the second place, the principal amlas of the State used to take out the farms of mehals and could thus easily make exactions from the rayats. Even in the letting out of the mehals they always had an eye to their own interest and got the farms on easy terms to the detriment of the interest of the State. These men rented the best Taluks of the State, and lands under them were much under-rated. The deficiency caused by this process was sought to be made up by over-assessing such mehals as were farmed by the jotedars and natives of the country.

The evils of this system are thus recapitulated by Mr. Smith, the Deputy Commissioner, in the Administration Report of the State for 1866-67 :—

"The lands of the State are mostly let in farm, the farms being taken by the ladies of the palace, the amla, and the freinds and relatives of the amla &c. As the amlas do not settle in the Raja's territory, a great portion of the farmers, namely, those who are retired amla and amla's relatives, are absentees, and, a great portion of those who are residents in the country, remit their profits to their houses in British Zillas. Owing to this cause and the practice of subletting, the profits of the farmers make scarcely any show and the country is devoid of any class corresponding to the Zemindars, Talukdars &c., of British Districts.

"The farmers' leases are held for short periods, and when they fall in they are put up to auction ; but intimidation, corruption, and favouritism are not unfrequently practised, and in some cases even the semblance of an auction is dropped. The Revenue officers have been almost free from control, since the death of the late Raja's predecessor Shibendranarayan, who died in 1847. During the long minority of the late Raja and during his brief reign, there was a period of misrule which was fertile in abuses and these have unfortunately not been eradicated yet. The Revenue Department is in the hands of a family clique, and the whole of the officers of the Department hold land themselves, either in their own, or friend's names."

Thirdly: The system fostered extensive sub-infeudation.

The last but not the least evil which has befallen the country under this system is the extensive sub-infeudation which it has fostered. It is not known from what period the under-tenures, such as Chukanies, Darchukanies, and so forth, have their origin. It is probable that some of them, at least the ones higher in the

[1] Select Records Vol I, page 47, para 11.

scale, existed even in the pre-Ijardari times. But it is also a fact that the oppressions and undue influence exercised by the official farmers converted many jotedars into chukanidars with a corresponding lowering of the status of the undertenants below the jotedar. "I can not," observes Mr. Dalton in his Retrospect of the British administration of the country during the minority of the present Maharaja, "do better than quote the following passage from the report submitted by the present Dewan in 1872, on the subject of the Land Revenue system before the advent of a British Commissioner :—

The Lagani process.

"I am sorry to state that there are no old records from which the origin of jotes and the gradual development of the present system can be traced out. I believe, however, that originally the jotedars were the cultivators of the soil and residents of this Raj. Gradually, there was an influx of the foreigners from other districts; they were more intelligent than the Cooch Beharis, and they began to usurp all real power in the State. Under a weak government their attempts to enrich themselves, even at the sacrifice of their principles, could never prove unsuccessful, and the result was that many jotes gradually passed into their hands. The resident jotedars could not often protect themselves against the oppressions of the ladies of the palace and the amlas of the State; they, therefore, naturally went to some of these persons, gave them their jotes without taking any consideration money, and became their undertenants (Chukanidars), so that they might rest in peace. This well-known process was called *Lagani*. It ruined many resident jotedars. It is no wonder that jotes were thus given up when officers, whose duty it was to protect the weak, took undue advantage of their position. More than 18 years ago this vicious system grew so pernicious that the persons entrusted with the management of the Raj could no longer keep their eyes closed and they were obliged to adopt some preventive measures. The practice of giving up jotes by *Istafas*, or *Ikrars* (or by Lagani) was forbidden by a proclamation issued by the Rajsava on the 30th Jeyt 1260 B.S.; but from that time formal deeds of sale took the place of *Ikrars* and *Istafas*, and the abuse practically remained in full force. Sometimes resident jotedars were forcibly dispossessed of their tenures and made Chukanidars, while jotes were taken possession of as appertaining to a small jote belonging to some influential officer; the jotes thus incorporated were called *Chhapasi* or concealed, and none had the courage to say where they could be found. The influential foreigners were also the farmers of the Raja's revenue; in this capacity they often acquired jotes by unfair means. The resident jotedars

accustomed to look upon them as landlords could not offer much opposition when they became jotedras in their own Ijara mehals, and reduced them (jotedars) to the position of Chukanidars. In many cases the change was not readily understood; the same man collected rents, and gave receipts as before, and the people thought that there was nothing wrong. When the thing came to light the person affected was either too lazy and poor to seek redress in a court of justice, or it was too late to have justice done. It is also to be remembered that even when cases were instituted it was very difficult to obtain a satisfactory decision against influential persons. The same foreigner was perhaps the judge, the Ijardar, and the oppressor, with respect to a certain quantity of land. There was besides a sort of combination amongst persons of this class, and it can, therefore, be stated that justice was seldom expected by the poor and the oppressed. I can cite cases in which Ijardars have turned entire Taluks into their own jotes."

"The farmer," goes on the Retrospect, "could only legally recover from the jotedars the amount of revenue payable by him to the Raja, plus the *Saranjami* and *Ijardari* cesses. If the revenue demanded for the farm was increased by the Raja the farmer could recover a rateable increase from the Jotedar. But though the law might seem to protect the cultivator it was practically a dead letter and the farmer could and did mulct the jotedars with impunity, and large numbers of the latter were, to quote my own words in a previous report "forced step by step down the ladder of tenant right" from Jotedar to Chukanidar, then to Dar-Chukanidar sometimes as far as Daradar-chukanidar, with an ever-increasing rent to pay."

Jotedars forced down to the position of under-tenants by the oppression.

These evils had an excuse.

The lands had not been measured.

This unsatisfactory state of things was not, however, without an excuse. Even if the farmers were inclined to be just and unexacting in their dealings with the Jotedars, they often found themselves quite helpless in ascertaining what their just dues were. The country had never been measured and the farms used to be given out on a very loose system, without properly defining the area which was covered by each lease. And it was not possible for the administration to do so. In the absence of regular survey it could not be known what the actual extent of a jote was, or where it actually lay. If the officials and the farmers availed themselves of, or were compelled by, this uncertainty to be always on the alert and commit exactions to provide against loss the jotedar tried no less to profit by the want or insufficiency of the farmers' knowledge. "Each village," complained Mr. Doughlas in 1791, "at present is divided into so many *Challas* or porcels of land, bearing the names of the ryats who first cultivated them;

but on the death or relinquishment of any of the rayats, the remainder have seldom failed to add to their own lands by encroaching on those left unoccupied; thereby is occasioned a considerable loss of revenue, the rayats being very averse to a remeasurement of their lands.[5]" And as a means of providing against this abuse he was strongly of opinion that a general measurement of the country should be made which had never yet been done. Mr. Beckett also in his completion report on the settlement of Pargana Mekhliguŋj bears testimony to the above. Ijardar's ignorance and loss.

"The Ijaras", he observes, "instead of being geographically defined were composed of jotes scattered all over the State. An Ijardar could not himself tell where the jotes that made up his Ijara were situated; he only knew the names of the Jotedars from whom he had to collect rent." And again, "the confusion that previously existed can hardly be conceived. There was no registers of Lakheraj holdings or of any thing else." A complete list or Towji of the names of all the Jotedars, and the jamas payable by them, did not perhaps also exist in the offices of the State.

The only effectual remedy for this crying evil was a general measurement of the whole State, together with the recording of rights, and assessing the rents due by the tenants. Up to the time the British Government assumed charge of the country on behalf of the present Maharaja during his minority in 1864, this had never been done. Although isolated jotes had been here and there measured in the crude native form, and there had been a topographical survey of the country under Mr. Pemberton, the Revenue Surveyor, in 1858, they were of no use for the purpose of a regular settlement. Thus, when Government took charge of the State one of the first steps taken by the Commissioner Colonel Haughton was to reform the abuses under the farming system; and with this view he proposed and carried ont a survey of the State under Mr. O'Donnel, Deputy Superintendent of Revenue Survey, who was specially deputed by Government for the purpose. While bent upon reforming the Ijardari system Colonel Haughton was not for doing away with it altogether. He wanted to create a middle class in the country like the Zemindars and Talukdars of Bengal, "who should," to quote his words, "form the bones and sinews of the country.[6]" He, therefore, proposed a measurement The remedy lay in a general survey and measurement of the country.

[5] Select Records Vol I, Page 45, Para 5.

[6] Mr. Dalton in his Retrospect observes: —

"It must be borne out in mind that though fully alive to the abuses which existed under the Ijardari System Colonel Haughton was not in favour of

by Taluks, and that the Taluks should be offered to the existing farmers after they had been properly demarcated. The Government, however, on receipt of his report declared themselves in-favour of a Khashrah measurement and settlement with the rayats direct. Mr. O'Donnel's survey was concluded in 1870. It was the first survey of the State ever attempted in which a proper demarcation was made by Taluks and Parganas, the latter of which divisions had not existed before. He divided the State into six main circuits and each circuit became a Pargana. These Parganas were named Mekhligunj, Mathabhanga, Lalbazar, Dinhata, Cooch Behar, and Tufangunj.

Survey concluded in 1870.

Formation of Parganas.

At the same time Babu Iswar Chandra Sen, Deputy Collector, who had formerly been employed on the settlement of the Bijni Estate was deputed to make a settlement at Cooch Behar. Pargana Rahimgunj was selected to commence with, as being under khas management, and Khashrah measurement was commenced in this tract in October 1864. The operations dragged on slowly owing to the insufficiency of the staff and were concluded in five years in the Rahimgunj portion only. A settlement of this portion was concluded for 16 years from 1275 B.S. (1869).

First Settlement of Rahimgunj

It was subsequently found out that in fixing the annual revenue a deduction of 40 percent [7] of the jama obtained under sane-

replacing it by a system of Khas Tehsil. He may have thought that there were disadvantages in the Khas Tehsil system which outweighed the probable benefits to the cultivator. He may have doubted whether it was not better to fall into the hands of one master than of many underlings. And undoubtedly any reform in this direction must have proceeded *pari passu* with the reforms in the morale of the administrative staff to be effectual. Colonel Haughton was somewhat carried away by his desire to form an opulent middle class. But he overlooked the fact that the existing body of farmers were composed principally of foreigners, of amla, and often Ayes of the Rajbari. This was not the class out of which a resident middle class could be formed with advantage."

[7] "In his Bengali report of the 18th November 1867 on the subject of rates, the late Dewan, Babu Nilkamal Sanyal, who had great local experience, stated when there were prevailing rates recognised by all the parties it was but proper to take them as a guide in fixing rates for the new settlement, and in the Rahimgunj settlement those old rates were fixed excluding fractions; but unfortunately owing to misrepresentations made by influential interested parties a deduction on rents calculated on those rates was allowed at the rate of 40 percent as profit for the jotedars. Under the Government orders the percentage was to have been allowed on gross rental, but instead of that the course practically adopted was the reduction of old prevailing rates. The old rate for the Awals or first class land with Kartanies was 12 annas and a fraction and the Raja could always claim revenue at this rate from the Jotedars. But the deductions of 40 percent was actually made on this which practically reduced the State revenue to 7as. and 3 pies. per Bigha for Awal, instead of 12as. and this 12as. rate thus become the rate payable by the Chukanidar to the Jotedar, instead of being, as before, the rate paid by the Jotedar to the State"—Assistant Commissioner Mr. Beckett's letter No. 398, dated the 30th May 1872, para 20.

tioned rates, had been made by mistake. On receiving a report on this subject the Government curtailed the term from 16 to 8 years. The amount of revenue obtained by this settlement was Rs. 26,791. But for the mistake referred to above it would have been about Rs. 44,537. The old jama was Rs. 16,833. The increase obtained thus amounted to Rs. 9,958. This increase was not charged at once but was distributed over five years.

After the conclusion of the settlement the tract came to be called Pargana Rahimgunj. It is to be noted that the Revenue survey of the State under Mr. O'Donnel, which finally fixed the number of the Parganas at six, had not yet been concluded.

Feeling of disquiet amongst the people.

The establishment of a single Deputy Collector for the settlement of the whole State was perfectly inadequate. The commencement of the operations had unsettled the public mind which was not favourably disposed towards the new settlement and many wild rumours were afloat regarding the large increase of revenue the State was foolishly supposed to have been driving at. Hitherto the settlement department was directly under the Commissioner, as the ordinary duties of the Deputy Commissioner were already heavy. It was, therefore, resolved to push on the settlement work with the utmost possible speed and place the Department under a full time officer. Accordingly, in 1870, Mr. W. O. A. Beckett was appointed Assistant Commissioner, and placed in charge of Settlement, and five other Deputy Collectors, were also employed on the work. The work now progressed rapidly, and Mr. Beckett was able to leave Cooch Behar in 1875, after submitting the completion report for Parganas Mekhligunj and Tufangunj. What work now remained was done under the superintendence of the Dewan who submitted the completion report for the remaining Parganas as also of the settlement of the town of Cooch Behar.

Operations extended to whole State in 1870 and Mr Beckett placed incharge.

Resettlement of Rahimgunj

The settlement of Rahimgunj, which, as already observed, had been concluded on wrong principles, had to be done again. Babu Gobinda Charan Dutt, Deputy Collector, did this work under the Dewan who submitted a fresh completion report for this part of the country in 1877.

Operation concluded in 1877

The settlement Department after Mr. Beckett's departure was gradually reduced as the work decreased, and was finally abolished in 1877. The services of the Deputy Collectors had already been dispensed with one by one; only Babu Gobinda Charan Dutt worked up to the last. After the conclusion of the settlement of the State he with his establishment was deputed to the the Chaklajat Estates for taking up the survey and measurement of the zemindaries.

Khash collections introduced by Sir George Campbell in 1872.

The Ijardari system of collection was abolished by Sir George Campbell, Lieutenant-Governor, from March 1872, and that of Khas collection introduced from the 1st April of that year. Towjis were made in the Dewans' office at first from the papers submitted by the Ijardars. As the settlement of the different Parganas was concluded the revised Towjis were got up from the Kabuliyats executed by the Jotedars and forwarded to the Revenue Department from the Settlement office.

Resumption of invalid rent free grants.

One important feature of the settlement operations was the resumption of the invalid rent-free lands, Mokararis, and Jaigirs. Hitherto the quantity of these lands in proportion to the revenue-paying lands was very large. During the unsettled state of the country in the second half of the last century, and for want of proper control in the administration up to the period of the taking over charge of the State by the British Government, large quantities of revenue-paying lands had been alienated and turned into rent-free lands and Jaigir Mehals through the clique and undue influence of interested officials, without the knowledge or sanction of the ruling chief. The State had thus been defrauded of a large portion of its legitimate dues. When the new settlement was concluded it was thought advisible to test the validity of these grants. Those that were found genuine on enquiry were upheld, and those that were found invalid were resumed and assessed, some at full rates and others in consideration of special circumstances at half rates. Every piece of land held rent-free by any party formed the subject of a resumption case which was fully enquired into by the Deputy Collector under whose superintendence the land had been measured. He submitted his report to the settlement officer, the Assistant Commissioner, who after referring the case to the Dewan for his opinion, sent up the papers with his own to the Commissioner who passed the final orders.

Procedure in resumption cases.

Measurement made in standard Bighas, Kattas and Dhurs.

The measurement was made in standard [8] Bighas, Kattas and Dhurs. It was conducted with the compass and the chain. Each jote was mapped to scale, and shewed the different *dags* or fields held by the different grades of tenants. The area of the State was computed to be 24,82,183 Bighas, excluding the big rivers which were not measured.

Area ascertained by survey.

[8] The *Standard* Bigha is a rectangular plot of land, measuring eighty *cubits* each way, the length of a *cubit* being eighteen inches.

General rates of Settlement.

The general rates adopted for the settlement were the following :—

	Rs	As.	P.	
For homestead and garden lands. ...	2	8	0	Per Bigha.
For bamboo lands.	1	2	0	,,
For other cultivated lands, including thatching grass lands and small *beels* of less than 2 Bighas in extent.	0	8	0	,,
For fallow and jungle lands ...	0	1	0	,,

Special rates for particular tracts.

A reduction of a fourth of these rates, except in the case of fallow and jungle lands, was allowed in some tracts of the country owing to their bad condition and want of clearance. These tracts were Gird Chowra, the northern portion of Pargana Cooch Behar ; Gird Shandara, the north-eastern portion of Pargana Tufangunj lying on the west side of the Raidak; and Bilat Bishguri the north-eastern corner of the last named Pargana lying to the east of the Raidak. The Baish Challa jotes, which lie within the Western Duars of the present Jalpaiguri District, in Pargana Moraghat, were assessed at the following rates which then obtained in those Duars :—

	Rs	As.	P.	
Homestead and garden lands. ...	0	5	4	Per Bigha.
Roopit or Haimanti paddy lands. ...	0	5	4	,,
Faringati, or other cultivated lands	0	2	8	,,
Fallow or Jungle lands.	0	0	6	,,

The total amount of revenue secured by the settlement was Rs. 9,38,610, giving an increase of Rs. 5,75,471 as detailed below:—

Pargana.	Old jama.	First settlement Jama.	Increase.
Mekhligunj	54,169	1,29,555	75,386
Mathabhanga	71,246	1,72,904	1,01,658
Lalbazar	74,476	1,34,198	59,722
Dinhata	76,451	1,74,034	97,583
Cooch Behar	71,520	2,32,040	1,60,520
Tufangunj	16,277	95,879	79,602
Total ...	3,64,139	9,38,610	5,74,471

Increase actually paid by the jotedars.

This amount of increase obtained by the State did not, however, represent the increase which devolved upon the Jotedars. Under the Ijardari system they had to pay two charges of *Ijardari* and *Saranjami*, amounting to a sixth of the revenue, which were not charged under the Khash collection system. The actual increase the Jotedars had now to pay was the amount of the increase shewn above, minus a sixth of the former revenue which amounted to Rs. 60,690, or a net total of Rs. 5,14,781. Nor does this amount represent the net increase due to the settlement alone. As already noticed large quantities of invalid rent-free, Mokarari, and Jaigir lands were resumed in the course of the settlement operations and brought under assessment. Khash lands newly cultivated, and incorported with, but forming no part of, the old jotes, were also assessed with the lands of the jotes. The revenue obtained from these two sources was independent of the assessment of the lands formerly comprised within the jotes. The jotedars paid nothing for these two descriptions of lands before the settlement, and the jamas derived from them did not thus actually represent any part of the increase due to the assessment of the old jotes. The jotedars had now to pay this increase because they held so much land more than what was comprised within their original holdings. The net increase which could be attributed to the new settlement was Rs. 3,85,996, of which Rs. 66,739 was obtained in Mekhligunj, Rs. 75,905 in Mathabhanga, Rs. 49,518 in Lalbazar, Rs. 73,519 in Dinhata, Rs. 1,16,104 in Cooch Behar, and the balance, namely, Rs. 4,211 in Tufangunj. The whole increase was distributed over 5 years.

Whole of the increase not due to reassessment.

Increase distributed over five years.

Of the total amount of revenue secured by the first Settlement Rs. 7,188 was on account of the Mokarari mehals or permanently settled estates, which were not subject to future enhancements.

Recording of under-tenures.

One important feature of the operations was to record all the different grades of under-tenures of which there were no less than six at the time. The holdings immediately below the *Jotes* were called *Chukanis*, and the successive lower grades were the *Dar-Chukanis*, *Dara-dar-chukanis*, *Tasya-chukanis*, *Tali-Chukanis*, and *Tasya-tali-chukanis*. Not only were these noted in the papers, but the amount of profit payable by each grade of tenants was also apportioned, and the rental of each was fixed beyond contention.

Term of the settlement.

The settlement was concluded with the Jotedars for a term which varied from 8 to 13 years for different Parganas and tracts and expired with 1290 B.E., corresponding with 1883-84.

Extension of the term after installation

His Highness was, however, pleased to extend it to 5 years more. Measures were, however, ordered to be taken for the assessment

of patit lands brought under cultivation since the last settlement and the recording of all changes in the rights of the several grades of tenants and under-tenants, which had taken place since that time. Operations were commenced under two Deputy Collectors Babus Gobinda Charan Dutt and Rajkrishna Das, who had hitherto been employed in the Chaklajat Estates, early in December 1884, and completed in two years and a half. All the *patit* lands included within the jotes during the first settlement and brought under cultivation since, were measured and assessed at the rate of cultivated lands prevailing in the tract in which the jote was situated. In cases where the quantity of the patit land shewn in the papers was small, namly, 10 Bighas and under, it was assessed as cultivated land without further enquiry. This settlement is known as the Patit Churcha Settlement.

Survey of patit lands.

Commenced by end of 1884 and finished in two and half years.

Operation known as Patit Churcha

The increase of revenue obtained by it was Rs. 68,824 for the whole State. For special reasons certain tracts of country were exempted from the Patit Churcha operations. These tracts were :-

1. The portion of Pargana Tufangunj east of the Raidak, known as Bilat Bishguri.

2. The western portion of Pargana Mekhligunj called Rahimgunj.

3. The detached pieces of land called Teldhar, Kotbhajni and Dahala-Khagrabari.

4. The Baishchalla jotes in Pargana Moraghat within the Western Duars.

Term of extension of the first settlement granted by His Highness expired with 1295 B.E. The term of the Patit Churcha settlement also expired in that year. The temporarily settled estates were thus open to resettlement from the beginning of the next year 1296 B.E., corresponding with 1888-89. In October 1885, His Highness had in view of these facts sanctioned a general resettlement of the State and operations had commenced by the beginning of 1886-87. A general survey was not necessary, the whole country having been measured only 15 years ago. The old papers of the first and the Patit Churcha settlements were taken as the basis and such changes, whether in possession or classification of lands, as had taken place since those settlement were recorded in the Chittas. For the equal distribution of the increase and to avoid hardship from over assessment, the Taluks were divided into three classes according to the nature of the soil, their means of communication, and their advantageous position, such as,

General re-settlement of the State

vicinity to marts and centres of trades &c., and three different schedules of rates for the cultivated lands were fixed for them. A detailed mode of classification of land was also adopted. All these will be fully noticed later on in their proper place. Following the old practice a deduction of a fourth in the rates was allowed in the case of GirdsC howra and Shandara. A departure was,however,made from the practice of settling the Baish Challa Jotes at the rates obtaining in the Western Duars, and the lowest schedule of the Chowra and Shandara rates were applied to them. The operations were concluded and the papers made ready by the end of April 1897. Only two tracts of country, one in the west of Gird Chowra, comprising nine Taluks, and the north-eastern portion of Pargana Tufangunj called Bilat Bishguri, as also a few jotes in Taluk Daikhata in Gird Teldhar were, owing to their backward condition and thinness of population, exempted from the resettlement operations for 10 years from 1296 B.E. This period was to expire in 1305 B.E., corresponding with 1898-99. With a view to conclude a resettlement of these tracts survey operations were first commenced in Bilat Bishguri in December 1896. They were extended to the western portion of Gird Chowra and in Daikhata in the following year; and a resettlement of the tracts was concluded from 1305 B.E. Unlike the remaining and by far the greater portion of the country, these tracts were resurveyed and a new set of maps and Chittas were prepared for them.

Re-settlement increase.

The revenue obtained by the re-settlement amounted to Rs. 12,41,060; the old jama on the eve of the re-settlement was Rs. 9,52,642; the increase therefore came ; the increase therefore came upto Rs. 2,88,418. This increase, the details of which will appear later on, was distributed over 5 years, as in the case of the first settlement.

Term of re-settlement.

The resettlement has been concluded for 30 years ending with 1325 B.E. Of the six Parganas the re-settlement had effect from 1296 B.E., in two, namely, Lalbazar and Mekhligunj, and from 1297 B.E., in the remainder. The resettlement of Gird Chowra and Shandara, as also that of the Baishchalla jotes was concluded from 1301 B.E. Bilat Bishguri, the western most nine Taluks of Gird Chowra, and some jotes in Daikhata, were, as alrady noticed, resettled from 1306 B.E. Owing to a boundary dispute with Rangpur near Moghalhat the resettlement of Taluk Jaridharla Nadi had to be kept in abeyance for 9 years and could not be concluded before 1305 B.E. In every case, however, the term will expire with 1325 B.E.

CHAPTER II.

SURVEY OPERATIONS.

SECTION I.

Survey and Measurement.

Old system of measurement.

The whole country of Cooch Behar was surveyed only once for purposes of settlement, and that was in connection with the first settlement of the State. Before the introduction of the Khas Tehsil system in 1872 no extensive measurement of lands appears to have been ever undertaken. In the pre-Ijardari times, that is, before the year 1790, the settlement used to be made from year to year, and the jotedars were almost always allowed to renew their contracts on the jama paid in the preceding year. After the introduction of the Ijardari system the duty of making assessment of lands passed into the hands of the farmers, and the State did not much care as to how these persons made their terms with the rayats. In the Khas mehals and in the case of new settlements measurement of lands was now and then had recourse to, and this was done under the crude *khashrah* or old native system. This system appears to have been in vogue in the country from very early times, as is the case in most of the rural districts of Bengal even at present. The compass was not in use, and the measurement used to be conducted with a rope or rod of a fixed linear measurement in *gajes* of 2 ft. in length. This length was different for Mal and Debutter lands. Both the boundary survey and the interior fitting used to be done with this rod or rope, and, like everything old, required much personal skill and training in the surveyor. The area used to be computed in *bishes*, *dones* and *kálies* according to the following table:—

Old table of square measure.

5	(5 × 1) sq. gajes = 1 Ganda or 1 Dhur.
100	(10 × 10) sq. gajes or 20 Gandas = 1 Kali or 16 Dhurs.
16	Kalis = 1 Done or 12 Khottas and 16 dhurs.
20	Dones = 1 Bish or 12 Bighas and 16 Khottas.
16	Bish = 1 Gram or 204 Bighas and 16 Khottas.

First professional Survey of 1858.

The first professional survey of the country was topographical, done under the supervision of Mr. Pemberton, Superintendent of Revenue Survey, in 1858. By this survey the boundaries of the State were demarcated, and the general topography of the country, showing the position of the rivers, roads, towns, &c. was mapped. The survey was done by Mr. Kelso, Sub Assistant Revenue Surveyor.

First khashrah measurement in Rahimgunj

The first regular survey of the country, as already noticed, was made in connection with the first settlement of the State. The operations first commenced in 1864 in Rahimgunj, the western portion of Pargana Mekhligunj, lying to the west of the Bura-Tista, under Deputy Collector Babu Iswar Chandra Sen. The Settlement party commenced work by fixing the boundaries of Taluks which were at that time extremely vague and undefined. Taluks as distinct geographical divisions with separate boundaries had not been in existence for the most part. The Ijardar who took out a farm of the lands of a certain Taluk came, in course of time, to possess lands lying in different localities as appertaining to his Ijara, and those places came to be known by the name of the Taluk with which the farm was concerned. In this way one Taluk happened to be in more than one place, and these places were often widely separated from each other. The task of finding out these different portions of a Taluk was a very difficult one and sorely taxed the patience of the surveyor. Babu Iswar Chandra Sen tried accurately to find these scattered bits and parts of the same Taluk, and his Taluks are thus far from being compact and contiguous. Although the same name is often applied to designate more than one Taluk in every part of the country, yet this multiplicity of Taluks of the same name occurs more often and more largely in Pargana Mekhligunj than any where else in the State.

Demarcation of Taluks.

Demarcation of jotes and interior-filling.

The jotes or revenue-paying estates comprised within each Taluk were then demarcated, after which the interior-filling of the jotes was effected under the Khashrah system of measurement. The boundaries of the Taluks and jotes were fixed with the Bengali compass and chain of 5 Kattas or 30ft. in length, and the measurement of the fields was done with the chain only. The under-tenures, or holdings below the jotes, were not demarcated with the compass, but were shewn as made up of so many of the fields composing the jote. The area was computed in standard Bighas, Kattas and Dhurs. In the Chitta or record of the Khashrah the plots or fields were arranged in a serial order, their position with respect to each other, the length of the sides, and their area, were noted down under separate columns. Other columns shewed the classification of the soil, the nature of the crop raised on it, as well as the name of the cultivator, and the title under which it was held. The map of the jote was generally plotted to the scale of 16 inches to the mile, and that of the Taluk to half that scale. On the map of the jote the fields were separately marked and numbered according to the Chitta, and the classification of the soil was shewn under different colours. The field-book of the boundary survey was attached to the map. In a foot-note were given the

serial number of the jote, in the order of the settlement papers, its Towji number, the name of the proprietor, the quantity of land and the amount of revenue payable for the jote, together with a schedule of references of colours used in the map.

Revenue Survey of 1868-70.

The operations in Rahimgunj lasted till 1869. In the meantime a general Talukwari survey of the State had been undertaken under Mr. O'Donnel, Deputy Superintendent of Revenue survey, and it was finished in 3 seasons in 1870. Mr. O'Donnel tried and succeeded in making the Taluks as compact and well defined as possible, and always followed a natural boundary whenever he could. His attempt was not, however, successful in Rahimgunj, or rather the whole of Mekhligunj, as another Talukwari Survey had preceded his own. It was the first survey of the State by Taluks and Parganas, the latter of which divisions did not exist before. He divided the State into six main circuits and each circuit became a Pargana. These Parganas were named Mekhligunj, Mathabhanga, Lalbazar, Dinhata, Cooch Behar, and Tufangunj. The boundaries of the Cooch Behar State with reference to the adjoining districts of Rangpur, Jalpaiguri and Goalpara had been demarcated by previous topographical surveys, and Mr. O'Donnel appears to have been guided by the maps in existence in fixing the boundary line. Masonry pillars were put up at the trijunctions of Taluks. Some pillars were also erected along the boundary line.

Formation of Parganas.

Khashrah measurement of the whole State.

In 1870, Mr. Beckett was appointed to the charge of the settlement of the State which had hitherto devolved directly upon the Commissioner, and five other Deputy Collectors were employed under him to push on the work with speed. The Khashrah measurement of the whole State, excluding Rahimgunj, was made under these officers and finished before 1876. In this the boundaries of Taluks fixed by the Revenue survey party were followed. The system of measurement, mapping of jotes, and preparation of Chittas followed was the same as in the previous survey of Rahimgunj.

Procedure in Patit Charcha operation.

During the Patit Charcha operations no fresh survey was made. Two parties under Babu Gobinda Charan Dutt, Deputy Collector and Babu Rajkrishna Das, Settlement Naib Ahilkar, commenced operations in December 1884, and finished the work in two years and a half. Only the line of diluvian of jotes was laid down and shewn on the map in pencil, and the field-book of the same was put down on the map. The new fields that had come into existence since the last survey by the cultivation of patit lands, were measured and the result was shewn in a Chitta similar to the one adopted for the first settlement. In this, however, the

quantity of newly-cultivated land was shewn against the old plot of the last survey, dividing the latter into as many fields as was necessary. These fields were arranged under a new serial number in the Chitta, and the changes in the old field and its sub-divisions into the new ones, were plotted in the column for remarks. No new map was prepared.

General Re-settlement.

The re-settlement operations were commenced in March 1886, under the two parties named above. Two more parties were started in November 1888, with a view to bring the operations to a speedy close, and were placed under Babus Rameswar Pramanik and Hem Chandra Bhattacharjee, Settlement Naib Ahilkars. In the course of these operations, with the exception of a few jotes and *payasthi* lands, no general re-survey of the country was made. But where a fresh survey was made the *modus operandi* was the same as in the first settlement of the State. As during the Patit Charcha operations, the line of diluvian was in every case laid down with the compass, and its field-book was appended to the old field-book of the jote. The operations were gradually extended to the whole of the temporarily settled jotes, with the exception of two tracts of country, namely, Bilat Bishguri and nine Taluks in the west of Gird Chowra, with some jotes in Taluk Daikhata in Gird Teldhar. Some of the Mokarari mehals and rent-free holdings were also surveyed at the cost of the proprietors. The survey was finished in 1891.

Re-survey of exempted tracts.

In 1896, the survey of the tracts* exempted from resettlement for ten years was taken up. In December of that year a small party of amins with one Peshkar and two mappers commenced operations under Babu Harendra-narayan Chaudhuri, Naib Ahilkar of Tufangunj, who was made *ex-officio* Settlement Naib Ahilkar for this purpose. They were extended to the western tract of Gird Chowra, and Daikhata in the following year, and were concluded in May 1898. Unlike the country already re-settled a fresh survey was made of these tracts for special reasons, and a new set of maps and chittas were prepared.

*Bilat Bishguri. Nine Taluks of Gird Chowra. Some jotes in Daikhata.

Different stages of operations — Measurement.

The two different stages or divisions of the survey operations are the field-work and the recess-work. The first is again sub-divided into two—measurement and chitta-writting and *Partal* or inspection of the same. This took up generally six months of the year, from December to May, while the next six months, from June to November, formed the recess. The rains fairly set in by the beginning of June, when field-work becomes inconvenient and is often interrupted. The field-season thus generally ended in

May. Again, early outing is not conducive to the health of the establishment, and much sickness occurs in camp by taking the field before December, which just closes the season of malaria commencing with September.

And Partal. After the amin had finished the measurement of a jote and prepared its map and chitta the papers were made over to the Peshkar or field-inspector who checked every *dag* or plot of the jote, and saw that the columns of the chitta were properly filled in. He made the necessary corrections if any mistakes were found out. The Deputy Collector or Naib Ahilkar in charge of the operations further tested the work of the Inspector, and generally checked 5 per cent of his work. All corrections were made in red. During the recess the records of right were prepared.

Classification of Taluks. In the course of the re-settlement operations, one of the chief features of which was the classification of the Taluks, the Settlement Naib Ahilkar did the classification of the Taluks by a personal inspection of them. This generally preceeded the measurement of the fields. It was, however, found more convenient to postpone the final adoption of the classification till the preparation of the Khatian and Jamabundi, when the increase to be obtained could be properly regulated by raising or lowering the scale of rates, according to the nature and capacity of the Taluk previously ascertained by inspection.

Recording of rights. One of the most important and difficult functions of the operations was the recording of rights. As will appear in a subsequent part of the report every jote on an average contained four under-tenures of different grades in 1872, which came up to five at the time of the re-settlement of the State. Every jote, or every Bigha or plot of land of the same, was thus concerned with he rights of five different persons (taking the jotedar as one of the number) at the former, and six at the latter date. Besides the measurement, and which had to be done in connection with every plot, the different titles in which the same was held by the tenants of the several grades had to be examined and recorded. For this purpose the first man connected with the settlement establishment and earliest to come into contact with the people, namely, the Amin, had to take from the Jotedar and his tenant the *Estafasar* or deposition, or rather record answers to certain interogatories calculated to give the required information regarding the condition of holdings under the jote. From the answers thus obtained the Amin filled in the columns of the chitta bearing on the title of the different grades of tenants. A written and verified statement of rights, technically called the "Form," had to be filed by the rayats to the Settlement officer, who, before accepting the document had

to generally satisfy himself as to the identity of the person filing the same, and the knowledge of the person of the contents of the statement, as well as the *prima facie* character of the titles set forth therein. For this last purpose documents had sometimes to be called for and examined. After the chittas had been checked and made over to the office, the *Estafasar* and the *Form* were compared and the discrepancies, if any, reconciled. This function sometimes necessitated the citing of the parties and even an examination of witness. It was when all this was done that the last and most important of the settlement records, namely, the *terij* could be finally prepared. Even after all this, objection to the recording of rights was attended to, if preferred within the allotted time.

Difficulties met with.

But the above does not set forth the real difficulties which the Settlement Officers had to encounter in correctly recording the existing rights. In some parts of the State and pre-eminently in Mekhligunj where the demand for land was great, the jotedars and even some rayats of lower grades tried every means to suppress the titles of their rayats so as to secure the benefit of uncertainty of title all to themselves. The ignorant and timid cultivators were often the dupes of false hopes held out by their land-lords and kept themselves in the back ground, and did not press any claim before the Settlement Officer. In many cases the conditions under which the titles were granted by the superior land-lords served to assist the suppression of the rights of the under-tenants. Formerly, the settlement of rent could be made verbally. There were thus many rayats who had taken out their leases on verbal contracts and had no documentary evidence in support of their title. The Settlement officer had always to be on the alert against foul play of this description. In the course of the first Settlement many under-tenures, it is feared, went without recognition for this reason. During the re-settlement operations great care was bestowed on this subject and the result shows a large increase of the under-tenures on the figures of the first settlement.

Rate of Amin's work.

The amount of work insisted upon and generally obtained from the Amins was 1,000 *Dags* or *Bighas* of land of new measurement per. head per. mensem. During the Patit Charcha and re-settlement operations, when the measurement and mapping of all the plots were not necessary, the rate of work was 1,500 *Dags* or *Bighas* per. head per. mensem.

Rate of Partal work.

Recess.

The rate of *Portal* work, or inspection by the Peshkar, was 15,000 *dags* or as many Bighas per mensem for every officer. One Inspector was thus necessary for every 10 to 15 Amins. The work of preparation of papers during the recess took up double the time employed on the field-work.

SECTION II.

Results of different measurements.

The importance of Mr. O'Donnel's survey of 1868-70 lies in the fact that it fixed the limits of Taluks, and defined the Parganas as they now are. Formerly, the name Pargana was not used to denote territorial sub-divisions of the State. In Mr. Ahmuty's Quinquennial Register of 1799 the whole country is shewn as being divided into villages or *dehas*. In the old *Nirikhnamah* or Schedule of rates which must have come into existence in the beginning of the nineteenth century, the country is seen to have had the following divisions :— Old territorial sub-divisions. In Nirikhnamah.

Zillah	...	...	...	Gitaldah.
,,	...	...	...	Mathabhanga.
,,	...	...	...	Durga Nagar.
,,	...	...	...	Lalbazar.
Bilat	...	...	...	Chowra.
,,	...	...	...	Shandara.

In 1861, while writting to the Agent of the Governor-General, N.W. Frontier, Maharaja Narendranarayan gave several names which once represented some divisions of the State. These names are :— In 1861.

Zillah	...	...	...	Gitaldah.
,,	...	...	...	Mathabhanga.
,,	...	...	...	Durga Nagar.
,,	...	...	...	Lalbazar.
Toke	...	...	...	Mekhligunj.
Gird	...	...	...	Patchhara.
,,	..	...	...	Teldhar.
,,	...	...	...	Uchalpukari.
,,	...	...	...	Moraghat.

To these perhaps could be added the following :—

Gird	...	...	Chowra.
,,	...	...	Shandara.
Bilat	...	...	Bishguri.

It can not, however, now be ascertained what the exact boundaries of these territorial sub-divisions were. Zillah Gitaldah represented the country situated to the south of Dinhata; Zillah Lalbazar was perhaps the name for the country now represented by the Pargana of the same name ; Zillah Mathabhanga roughly included the modern Pargana of that name as also part of Pargana Mekhligunj ; and Zillah Durga Nagar represented the greater part of Pargana Cooch Behar and perhaps a portion of Pargana Tufangunj also. The old Girds Patchhara and Uchalpukari represented tracts which now form the western and eastern Extent of the sub-divisions.

parts of Pargana Mathabhanga and Mekhligunj, respectively. Toke Mekhligunj was perhaps the name for the remaining portion of Pargana Mekhligunj, with the exception of Gird Teldhar, which was then, as at present, situated within the modern district of Jalpaiguri to the west of Haldibari. Gird Moraghat represented a large tract of country to the north of Moranga within the western Duars, comprising the greater part, if not the whole, of Pargana Moraghat, of which only 22 Jotes are all that are now left to the State, the remainder having from time to time been adjudged to Bhutan by the British Government, and subsequently ceded to that Government by the Bhuteas after the conclusion of the Second Bhutan war. Gird Chowra represented the northern portion of Pargana Cooch Behar, and Shandara lay in the north and east of Pargana Tufangunj ; while the name Bilat Bishguri was applicable to the eastern part of the latter.

Important omissions.

It is not known if these divisions were exhaustive or co-exclusive. The probability is that they were not so. The most striking omissions are Rahimgunj, which was all along known as a separate territorial sub-division down to 1872, when it was amalgamated with Pargana Mekhligunj, and Kotbhajni, which has always formed a separate Gird.

The six Parganas.

As already noticed, Mr. O'Donnel divided the country into six main circuits for purposes of his survey. These circuits were afterwards formed into six Parganas which now exist, and were named after the places of importance within those areas. The Parganas thus formed are, to begin from the west or the main circuit No. I—1. Mekhligunj ; 2. Mathabhanga; 3. Lalbazar ; 4. Dinhata; 5. Cooch Behar ; and 6. Tufangunj.

Their situation and boundaries

The situation and boundaries of these Parganas are given below:—

1. Mekhligunj.—It is situated between 26°-13′-50″ and 26°-32′-25″ north latitude, and 88°-47′-45″ and 89°-6′-30″ east longitude; and is bounded on the—

North—by the Chamarchi Duar and Pargana Bykunthapur in the District of Jalpaiguri.

East—by Pargana Mathabhanga, and Pargana Patgram of the Jalpaiguri District.

South—by Pargana Patgram of the Jalpaiguri District.

West—by Pargana Boda of the Jalpaiguri District.

2. Mathabhanga.—It is situated between 26°-17′-35″ and 26°-35′-25″ north latitude, and 89°-8′-45″ and 89°-22′-45″ east longitude, and is bounded as follows:—

North—by the western Duars in the Jalpaiguri District.

East—by Pargana Cooch Behar of this State.

South—by Pargana Lalbazar and Cooch Behar of this State.

West—by Pargana Patgram of the Jalpaiguri District and Pargana Mekhligunj of this State.

3. Lalbazár.—It is situated between 26°-0′-40″ and 26°-17′-35″ north latitude, and 89°-11′-3″ and 89°-22′-15″ east longitude, and is bounded thus:—

North—by Pargana Mathabhanga.

East—by Pargana Cooch Behar and Dinhata.

South—by Pargana Kankina of the Rangpur District.

West—by Pargana Kankina of the Rangpur, and Pargana Patgram of the Jalpaiguri Districts.

4. Dinhata.—It is situated between 25°-59′-5″ and 26°-13′-12″ north latitude and 88°-22′-15″ and 89°-0′-40″ east longitude and is bounded on the—

North—by Pargana Cooch Behar.

East—by Pargana Bhitarbund of the Rangpur District.

South—by Chakla Purvabhag and Pargana Kankina of the Rangpur District.

West—by Pargana Lalbazár.

5. Cooch Behar.—It is situated between 26°-13′-12″ and 26°-29′-20″ north latitude, and 89°-22′-45″ and 89°-37′-10″ east longitude, and is bounded as follows:—

North—by Buxa Duar of the Jalpaiguri District.

East—by Pargana Tufangunj.

South—by Pargana Dinhata.

West—by Pargana Lalbazár and Mathabhanga.

6. Tufangunj.—It is situated between 26°-27′-53 and 26°-10′-15″ north latitude, and 89°-55′-23″ and 89°-36′-30″ east longitude, and is bounded on the

North—by the Buxa and Bulka Duars of the Jalpaiguri District.

East—by the Eastern Duars and Pargana Ghurla of the Assam District of Goalpara.

South—by Pargana Gaibari of the Rangpur District; and on West—by Pargana Gaibari of the Rangpur District, and Pargana Cooch Behar of this State.

Reconciliation of different measurements.

Area of the State according to Revenue Survey and Khasra measurement.

With the exception of a few small patches of *chhits* or detached pieces of land lying outside the boundary, and situated within the limits of the Jalpaiguri, Rangpur and Goalpara Districts, the extent of the country ascertained by the Revenue survey was 8,36,215 acres. If the extent of the *chhits* be added to this, Mr. O'Donel's figure would be 8,36,467 acres, or 25,30,312 Bighas of standard measurement, which is equal to about 1,307 square miles. The area of the State as found by Khasrah measurement in the course of the first settlement wsa 24,82,183 Bighas, which is less than the area according to Revenue survey by 48,129 Bighas. This is rather remarkable and requires a word of explanation. Measurement in detail, as under the Khasra system, always gives the area somewhat in excess of what it really is. The area of the State as given by the first settlement records should thus have been greater than what was ascertained by Mr. O'Donel's survey. The explanation of this anomaly lies in the fact that in the course of the first settlement the big rivers could not be measured, and the area covered by them was not recorded in the settlement papers What the extent of these rivers is can not be ascertained from the Revenue Survey papers. But from the result of comparison shewn above it must be above 48,000 Bighas. Roughly, the area can be said to be 60,000 Bighas of Khashrah measurement, which gives a little above 30 square miles.

Difference explained.

The following statement compares in detail the results of the survey of Mr. O'Donel, with those of the Khashrah measurement made in the course of the first Settlement of the State:—

Number of main circle.	NAME OF PARGANA.	LAND ASCERTAINED BY THE REVENUE SURVEY OF 1868-70.			LAND ASCERTAINED BY KHASHRAH MEASUREMENT OF 1872.		DIFFERENCE IN FAVOUR OF THE RESULT OF REVENUE SURVEY.		Percentage of the difference.
		Acres.	Bighas.	Sq. miles.	Bighas.	Sq. miles.	Bighas.	Sq. miles.	
1	Mekhligunj ...	1,23,613	3,73,929	193·15	3,72,243	192·27	+1,686	+·88	+·48
2	Mathabhanga...	1,46,917	4,44,424	229·56	4,21,650	217·79	+22,774	+11·77	+5·12
3	Lalbazar ...	1,12,731	3,41,011	176·14	3,31,567	171·27	+9,444	+4·87	+2·74
4	Dinhata ...	1,31,048	4,03,495	209·45	3,94,672	203·87	+10,823	+5·58	+2·67
5	Cooch Behar ...	1,97,909	5,98,675	309·23	6,00,645	310·24	−1,970	−1·01	−·32
6	Tufanguni ...	1,21,249	3,63,778	189·45	3,61,406	186·68	+5,372	+2·77	+1·46
	Total ...	8,36,467	25,30,312	1,307·9	24,82,183	1282·12	+48,129	+24·86	+1·13

Mr. Beckett in para 42 of his final report of the Settlement of Pargana Mekhligunj gave the area of the State to be 8,36,215 acres or about 1,305 square miles. He, however, did not take into account the outlying tracts of Cooch Behar situated within the district of Goalpara and the Western Duars. The areas of these *chhits* have been included in the present statement. Hence the increase on Mr. Beckett's figure, which is the same as that of the Revenue Survey of 1868-70.

It will appear from the above that except in Cooch Behar, the area ascertained by the Revenue Survey exceeds that found by the Khashrah measurement of 1872 in all other Parganas. Increase in Pargana Cooch Behar.

Pargana Cooch Behar does not contain big running rivers. All the streams that flow through it have been measured along with the lands on their banks. Hence the area obtained by the measurement in the course of the first settlement is greater here than what is shewn in the Revenue Survey papers. This excess is, however, not a large one; it is in fact less than one-half percent. This fact unmistakeably certifies to the correctness of the measurement done by a Khasrah Amins and shews how carefully they worked.

Decrease in other Parganas

On the other hand, the excess of the Revenue Survey area is the greatest in Mathabhanga, where it is above 5 per cent. This is accounted for by the fact that this Pargana contains a big river, namely, the Manshai, which has got a wide channel, and could not, in most places, be measured in the course of settlement. The first settlement thus left a large area in this Pargana out of consideration, and obtained a result which was very much below the actual. Mekhligunj and Tufangunj, on the contrary, show the smallest excess, the difference in these parts of the State being very small. In fact there are very few big sheets of water in these Parganas which could not be measured; and but for the exclusion of a portion of the Jaldhaka in the north of the former and the Gadadhar in the east of the latter, the result would have been very much the same as in Cooch Behar. It is to be noted that although the large river Tista flows through Pargana Mekhligunj, it did not affect the result shewn above. It forms a Taluk by itself and not much of it was left unaccounted for. The excess of the Revenue Survey area in Lalbazar and Dinhata, in each of which it exceeded 2 per cent., is mainly due to a part of the river Manshai or Singimari remaining unmeasured in the course of the first settlement operations.

Taluks.

Demarcation of Taluks.

Besides the formation of the Parganas, the other great work done by Mr. O'Donel was the fixing of the boundaries of the Taluks. Unlike the Parganas the Taluks had actually been in existence before the survey, and it has already been noticed how difficult it was to form different circuits of these sub-divisions. Except in Mekhligunj, where the Revenue Surveyor had to work on the basis of the previous survey made by Babu Iswar Chandra Sen, Deputy Collector, the Taluks were made as compact as possible in every other Pargana.

Their number.

The number of Taluks given in Mr. Ahmuty's Register is 1,099. The number ascertained by Mr. O'Donel's survey is

1202. The distribution of the Taluks among the Parganas and their size are shewn below :—

Name of Pargana.	Number of Taluks.	Land covered by the Taluks.		Average area of a Taluk	
		Bighas.	Square miles.	Bigha.	Square miles.
Mekhligunj	237	3,72,243	192·27	1,570	·81
Mathabhanga ...	189	4,21,650	217·79	2,231	1·14
Lalbazar	131	3,31,567	171·26	2,531	1·30
Dinhata	256	3,94,672	203·87	1,542	1·12
Cooch Behar ...	274	6,00,645	310·24	2,191	1·13
Tufangunj	115	3,61,406	186·68	3,143	1·62
Total ...	1,202	24,82,183	1282·11	2,065	1·06

Extent of Taluks.

It will appear from the above that the number of Taluks is the largest in Pargana Cooch Behar, being 274, and the smallest in Pargana Tufangunj where it is 115. A Taluk is, however, the biggest in Tufangunj where it is above one square mile and a half (1·62 square miles) in area, and the smallest in Mekhligunj, where the area is ·81, or less than one, square mile. The average area of a Taluk of the State is about one square mile.

Area under Re-settlement.

Scope of the re-settlement

As already noticed the re-settlement operations were not simultaneously extended to the whole State but were at first confined to a limited area, although the same coverd the largest portion of the country ; subsequently the remaining tracts were also brought within their scope. The operations had no direct concern with the rent-free holdings or Jaigir lands, or even the whole of the assessed area, the *Mokararis* or permanently settled estates not having come under their scope. It was only the temporarily settled estates which were open to re-settlement.

The area under re-settlement was 21,23,696 Bighas comprised within 1,202 Taluks as shewn below:—

NAME OF PARGANA.	Number of Taluks.	Land under re-settlemet in Bighas.	Percentage of the area under re-settlement in each Pargana on total of land.
Mekhligunj	237	2,97,265	13·9
Mathabhanga	189	3,82,172	17·9
Lalbazar	131	2,87,802	13·9
Dinhata	256	3,61,599	17·2
Cooch Behar	274	5,08,614	23·9
Tufangunj	115	2,86,244	13·4
Total ...	1,202	21,23,696	100.0

Of the total area under re-settlement Pargana Cooch Behar takes up by far the largest portion, and furnishes about 24 percent, and Tufangunj the smallest, about 13 percent only. Mathabhanga ranks second and takes up about 18 percent, and Dinhata stands third with 17 percent. Mekhligunj and Lalbazar have about 14 per cent each.

Rent-free and khas land.

Although the re-settlement operations had no immediate bearing on the rent-free and khas lands their result largely affected the extent of the lands of both these descriptions. After the conclusion of the first settlement some rent-free lands had been resumed and some new grants had been made; many khas lands had been settled and an equally large extent of settled area had become khas by relinquishment or resumption. In this way the extent of khas and rent-free lands as ascertained during the first settlement had suffered a change. The re-settlement papers show how it stood at the time of the subsequent operations.

The statement given below shows the extent of these lands in each of the Parganas at the time of the re-settlement :—

Name of Pargana.	RENT-FREE LANDS.			KHAS LANDS.				Grand total of Rent-free and Khas lands.
	Rent-free lands.	Jaigir lands.	Total of Rent-free lands.	Roads &c.	Sal & Sisu forest.	Jangles & swamps & lands of all other descriptions.	Total of Khas lands.	
Mekhligunj ..	5012	....	5,012	3,270	277	25,038	28,585	33,597
Mathabhanga ..	3,319	2,932	10,251	1,941	30	27,357	29,328	39,577
Lalbazar ..	15,115	893	16,008	2,484	556	26,088	28,728	44,736
Dinhata	8,231	343	8,604	4,606	218	28,225	33,049	41,653
Cooch Behar ..	16,399	13,554	29,953	4,955	9,412	44,104	58,501	88,454
Tufangunj ..	4,846	1,390	6,236	1,446	19,685	55,352	76,483	82,719
Total ..	53,952	19,112	76,064	18,702	29,808 (1)	2,06,164	2,54,674	3,30,738

(1) Of the area under "Sal and Sisu forests," 26,272 Bighas represent the extent of two shooting Reserves, one in Bilat Bishguri in Pargana Tufangunj, covering an area of 19,062 Bighas, and the other in Taluk Buxibas Putimari in Pargana Cooch Behar, comprising 7,187 Bighas. The remainder, namely, 3,536 Bighas, of which Pargana Cooch Behar contains 2,255 Bighas, and Tufangunj 600, therefore, shows the area actually covered by Reserved forests or plantations.

Decrease of the area under temporarily settled estates.

The area covered by the temporarily settled estates falling within the tracts under re-settlement was 21,65,620 Bighas in 1872 at the time of the first settlement. The area actually re-settled, as noted above, was 21,23,696 Bighas. There was thus a decrease of 41,924 Bighas in these estates at the time of re-settlement. The subjoined table shows the extent of the decrease in each Parganas :

Name of Pergana.	Quantity of land in Bighas comprised by the temporarily settled estates.		Decrease at the re-settlement.	Percentage of decrease.
	1st settlement	Resettlement.		
Mekhligunj ...	2,99,789	2,97,265	2,524	·8
Mathabhanga ...	3,89,460	3,82,172	7,288	1·8
Lalbazar ...	2,93,584	2,87,802	5,782	1·9
Dinhata ...	3,68,101	3,61,599	6,502	1·9
Cooch Behar ...	5,24,918	5,08,614	16,304	3·1
Tufangunj ...	2,89,768	2,86,244	3,524	1·2
Total ...	21,65,620	21,23,696	41,924	1.9

Its extent.

Taking the State as a whole the decrease amounted to about 2 percent (1·9) of the lands recorded at the first settlement. The decrease was, however, the largest in Cooch Behar, where it was above 3 percent, and the smallest in Mekhligunj, which has less than one percent. Next to Cooch Behar rank Lalbazar and Dinhata, each of which has a normal decrease of 1·9 percent. In each of the two remaining Parganas the decrease is less than the average for the whole State, Mathabhanga sharing 1·8 percent. and Tufangunj 1·2 per cent.

Decrease is the net result.

The decrease noted above, of course, shows the net result of the fluctuations of the area of the temporarily settled estates which have occurred in the course of the two decades which intervened between the first settlement and the re-settlement of the country. All the lands of the State were not leased out at the time when the first regular settlement was concluded in 1872. Several unbroken tracts and sandy *chars* remained undisposed of. Again, the *Jalas* and rivers are held *khas* by the State, and when *chars* are thrown up in their midst the new land becomes subject to assessment and is settled by the State as occasion arises. Resumption and assessment of rent-free lands, though not a common occurrence, sometimes takes places on the happening of certain contingencies, when the original grant was conditional. Land of this description is quite distinct from the old assessed area, and when settled gives so much new assessed land. In this way settlement of khas land takes place every year and serves to augment the revenue-paying area of the country.

Variation of assessed and unassessed lands.

On the other hand, jotes are sometimes relinquished in full or in part owing to diluvion. Lands are also now and then taken up for the construction of roads and for other public purposes. Rent-free grants also are sometimes made from assessed lands. Decreases thus constantly occur in the total of the revenue-paying areas. The decrease noticed above, therefore, means that more lands have either been taken up by State or given up by the Jotedars than what has been settled during the 20 years under notice. The decrease in the revenue-paying area does not, however, mean any final loss to the State. It no doubt serves as a temporary loss, immediately lessening as it does a part of its revenue. But after all it increases the extent of the khas lands which represent so much capital in reverse yet unworked and unexpended. An examination of the condition of the unassessed lands as compared with that of assessed lands is, therefore, necessary for finding an explanation of the decrease of the assessed or revenue-paying area. The following comparative table will shew the state of the lands

of both these description at the time of the last two settlements:—

NAME OF SETTLEMENT.	ASSESSED LANDS IN BIGHAS.			UNASSESSED LANDS IN BIGHAS.			Grand total of assessed and unassessed lands or the total of lands comprised within the tracts under resettlement, in Bighas.	Remarks.
	Permanently settled.	Temporarily settled.	Total.	Rent-free	Khas	Total.		
First settlement ..	(1) 57,559	21,65,620	22,23,179	85,389	1,68,869	2,54,258	24,77,439	The sign + or − indicates increase or decrease, respectively.
Re-settlement ..	(1) 57,559	21,23,696	21,81,255	76,064	2,54,674	3,30,738	25,11,993	
Difference ..	.....	−41,924	−41,924	−9325	+85,805	+76,480	+34,556	
Percentage of the difference on the land of first settlement ..	.....	−1·9	−1·8	−10·9	+50·8	+30·6	+1·3	

Extent of unassessed lands.

The total of unassessed lands comprised within the tracts under re-settlement is 3,30,738 Bighas, against 2,54,258 Bighas existing at the time of the first Settlement. There has thus been an increase of 76,480 Bighas of unassessed lands since the time of that settlement. The increase has been at the rate of 30 percent. As in the case of assessed lands this increase is also the net result of the addition to and subtraction from the unassessed lands, owing to various causes which will be noticed latter on.

Division into Rent-free and Khas.

Unassessed lands or lands carrying no revenue are mainly divided into two classes: Rent-free lands which are in the possession of private individuals, and khas lands held directly by the State. It will be seen from the foregoing table that the net increase took place in the lands of the second description, and that on the whole the rent-free lands show a decrease of 9,325 Bighas or 10 percent of the lands recorded at the first Settlement. The net increase under khas lands amounts to 85,805 Bighas, which is 50 percent of the lands of the first settlement. The increase in the unassessed lands is the remainder of these two, which gives 76,480 Bighas as the net result. As already noticed, a part of this increase, namely, 41,924 Bighas, is due to the transfer of the assessed to the unassessed lands. The remainder, namely, 34,556 Bighas, is altogether a new accretion and marks an increase not only of the unassessed but also of the total of the assessed and unassessed or the grand total of the lands of all descriptions comprised within the tracts under re-settlement.

Net increase under unassessed.

Part of the increase is nominal.

The whole of this increase of 34,556 Bighas is not, however, real. The summary character of the re-settlement operations itself

is responsible for a portion of it which is unreal. These operations as already noticed were neither independent nor elaborate, as far as survey and measurement were concerned. As no fresh survey of the whole area was made our Amins were not required to give a reckoning of the total lands of the Taluks. The chief function of the surveyor consisted in revising the classification of lands and recording the changes in possession and title. It was only rarely that he had to do a fresh measurement, and that also of an isolated field, or of a new *char* in the midst of a river. A reconciliation of the quantity of lands thus recorded with that of the first settlement did not thus fall within the scope of the re-settlement operations. The increase noted above occurred in this way: When any portion of a jote was found to have been washed away it was struck out of the total area of the jote by the Amin. The tabulator brought the area so struck off over to the "unassessed or khas land." The existence of water in the place of the old land made no difference, for the beds of all waters which are measured are shewn as khas lands if they form no part of a jote. But in some cases it so happened that a Payasthi land came into existence shortly after the diluvion had taken place and had been noted in the re-settlement chitta, in the very part of the river which had formerly contained the diluviated portion of the jote. A second Amin, who had the charge of survey of this accretion, measured the *char* as an altogether new khas land, and it was afterwards tabulated as a distinct piece of khas land.

Origin of the mistake.

The consequence was that the same piece of land, or a part of it as the case might be, came to be recorded as two distinct plots of khas land; first, as the diluviated portion of a jote, and secondly, as a new *char*. One of these is thus a double entry and represents no land whatever. Thus a part of the increase, as already premised, is not real, and is only due to the double entry of the same area. The extent of this nominal increase is about 10,000 Bighas, and is distributed among the different Parganas as shewn below :—

Which is due to double entry

Name of Pargana.			Quantity of khas land due to double entry, in Bighas.
Mekhligunj	...	...	281
Mathabhanga	...	...	2,253
Lalbazar ...	...	...	508
Dinhata ...	...	...	3,941
Cooch Behar	...	...	1,875
Tufangunj ...	...	...	1,142
	Total	...	10,000 Bighas.

This increase was the greatest in Pargana Mathabhanga and Dinhata, which suffered the largest diluvions, owing to the action of the big river Jaldhaka or Singimari. Of the balance of the increase, namely, 24,556 Bighas, with the exception of a trifle due to the mistakes in the calculation of the area in the first Settlement papers, and some re-surveys made in the course of the later operations, almost the whole is due to the survey of new *chars* in the big rivers which had not been measured at the time of the first survey. These lands were not in existence at the time of the first settlement, and were not recorded in the old papers. They, therefore, give a real increase, and are not less than 20,000 Bighas in area.

Extent of new *chars*

A reconciliation of the lands of all descriptions at the times of the last two settlements is given below :—

Reconciliation of all lands

I. ASSESSED LANDS.

Lands recorded at the First Settlement.	.....	21,65,620	Bighas.
ADD.—			
Rent-free lands resumed and settled in jote right since the First Settlement.	10,874		
Khas lands settled in jote right ...	33,322	44,196	Bighas of increase.
	Total ...	22,09,816	Bighas.
DEDUCT.—			
Rent-free grants made out of assessed lands since the First Settlement.	2,389		
Lands made Khas or relinquished.	83,731	86,120	Bighas of decrease.
DIFFERENCE.—			
Being the quantity of lands recorded at the re-settlement.	.....	21,23,696	Bighas.

II. RENT-FREE LANDS.

Lands recorded at the First Settlement.	.....	85,389	Bighas.
ADD.—			
Rent-free grants made from assessed lands.	2,389	2,389	Bighas of increase.
	Total ..	87,778	Bighas.
DEDUCT.—			
Lands resumed and settled in jote right.	10,874		
Lands which became Khas.	840	11,714	Bighas of decrease.
DIFFERENCE.—			
Representing lands recorded at the re-settlement.	.....	76,064	Bighas.

III. KHAS LANDS.

Lands recorded at the First Settlement.		1,68,869	Bighas.
ADD.—			
Lands made khas from assessed area.	83,731		
Do. from rent-free lands.	840		
New accretion.	34556	1,19,127	Bighas of increase.
	Total ...	2,87,996	Bighas.
DEDUCT.—			
Lands settled in jote right since the First Settlement.	33,322	33,322	Bighas of decrease.
Difference representing lands recorded at the re-settlement.		2,54,674	Bighas.

Gross increase in assessed area.

It would appear from the above that in the course of the two decades that intervened between the first settlement and the re-settlement there was an increase of 44,196 Bighas in the assessed land. This increase was due to the settlement in jote right of 10,874 Bighas of resumed rent-free lands and 33,322 Bighas of khas land. The extent of the increase in each of the Parganas under these two heads is shewn below :—

Name of Pargana.	Rent-free land in Bighas.	Khas land in Bighas.
Mekhligunj	10,728	1,020
Mathabhanga	.....	7,616
Lalbazar	.....	1,661
Dinhata	.....	10,965
Cooch Behar	146	5,778
Tufangunj	.....	6,282
Total ...	10,874	33,322

It will be seen that the resumption and settlement of rent-free lands took place only in Parganas Mekhligunj and Cooch Behar, while the settlement of khas land occurred in all the Parganas. Of the rent free-lands resumed and settled, by far the greatest portion (10,320 Bighas) was taken up by the Petbhata of Kumar Krisna Narayan and others in Taluks Dahala Khagrabari and Balapara Khagrabari within the Kotbhajni *chhits* in Pargana Mekhligunj, which was resumed and settled in jote right,

the holders having been grant an allowance in cash instead. The remainder in Mekhligunj and the land in Cooch Behar represent small Jaigirs or service-lands which were resumed, the services for which the grants had originally been made being no longer required. Of the Khas lands settled, the largest quantity, or more than half of the total, was contributed by Mathabhanga (7,616 Bighas) and Dinhata (10,965 Bighas). The quantity settled in Tufangunj (6,282 Bighas) was also proportionally large. These were mostly the *chars* thrown up by the river Jaldhaka' and some uncleared lands in Tufangunj.

Gross decrease of assessed area.

As the assessed area increased at the re-settlement, it likewise suffered a decrease owing to resumption of lands by the State, and relinquishment by the rayats on account of diluvion and other causes. The total of decrease was 86,120 Bighas or about double the increase obtained. The decrease represents 2,389 Bighas of rent-free grants from out of assessed lands made or confirmed since the first settlement, and 83,731 Bighas of land which was resumed for public purposes or made khash owing to relinquishment, diluvion and so forth. The distribution of the land of the last description among the several Parganas is shewn below :—

Name of Pargana.	Khash land in Bighas.
Mekhligunj	13,947
Mathabhanga	14,846
Lalbazar	7,375
Dinhata	17,006
Cooch Behar	21,159
Tufangunj	9,398
Total ...	83,731

It will appear that the largest resumptions &c., occurred in the four Parganas of Mekhligunj, Mathabhanga, Dinhata, and Cooch Behar. With the exception of about 8,600 Bighas taken up for roads and other public purposes, by far the greatest portion of the decrease on this head is attributable to diluvion due to the action of the rivers Tista, Jaldhaka and Torsa.

Net decrease

The result of the fluctuation of the assessed lands is a net decrease of 41,924 Bighas on the area recorded during the first settlement.

Gross increase in rent-free lands.

The increase which took place in the rent-free lands after the first settlement amounts to 2,389 Bighas due to new grants noticed above. As in the case of assessed lands there was a decrease under this head also amounting to 11,714 Bighas. Of

this 10,874 is due to resumption of Petbhata and Jaigir lands already referred to. Of the remainder, 324 Bighas is attributable to a mistake in the first settlement papers which tabulated a bit of Sal forest in Gird Teldhar under the rent-free lands; this was corrected in the course of the re-settlement operations, and the land was recorded as khas. The balance represents a Debutter in Buxibos Putimari which was incorporated with the shooting Reserve. The net result is a decrease of 9,325 Bighas under this head.

Net decrease.

Fluctuations in khas lands.

The extent of khas lands recorded at the first settlement was 1,68,869 Bighas. There has since been an increase of this area amounting to 1,19,127 Bighas, or about 70 percent in the course of the last two decades, owing to various causes. The principal of these are (1) resumption and diluvion, and (2) new accretion. As already noticed, 83,731 Bighas of the increase is referable to the first, and 34,556 Bighas, to the second head. Detailed explanations regarding the increase have been recorded above in connection with the decrease of assessed and rent-free lands. There was likewise a decrease aggregating 33,322 Bighas owing to new settlements made since the time of the first Settlement. These settlements were made of course gradually, year after year, and covered khas lands, both old and new. Old lands represent those that were in existence at the time of the first settlement, and new lands, those that have since come into existence, chiefly by the formation of *chars* in the rivers, and relinquishment of bad jotes. The former amounts to 5,084 Bighas, and the latter, to 28,238 Bighas. The details for each of the Parganas are given below :—

Khash land settled.

Name of Pargana.	Old lands in Bighas.	New lands in Bighas.
Mekhligunj	300	720
Mathabhanga	1,852	5,764
Lalbazar	360	1,301
Dinhata	263	10,702
Cooch Behar	980	4,798
Tufangunj	1,329	4,953
Totat ...	5,084	28,238

Net increase of khas lands.

The result of these fluctuations is a net increase of 85,805 Bighas of khas land. The whole of this is not, however, real. About 10,000 Bighas of this area is only nominal and is due to a double entry, as already explained in connection with the re-

conciliation of the total lands recorded by the two settlements. The balance of 75,805 Bighas represents the actual increase, 41,924 Bighas of which was contributed by assessed land, and 9,325 Bighas by rent-free land. The remainder, namely, 24,556 Bighas is made of up the actual increase in total area under assessment owing to the formation of *chars* in rivers not measured during the first settlement, and the re-measurement of some old jotes, and rectification of errors of computation of area detected in the old papers. The quantity of land attributable to the first head is approximately 20,000 Bighas, and that to the second 4,556 Bighas, as already noticed in a previous para. The details of the assessed lands which formed the subject of the re-settlement operations will be noticed in a separate Chapter where they can be more conveniently dealt with. Futher particulars of the unassessed lands comprising rent-free and Khash lands are given here. The subjoined table compares these lands separately for each Pargana as they existed at the two different periods marked by the last two settlements.

A comparative statement showing separately for each Par at the time of the re-settlement with what were recorded by the

Name of Settlement.	UNASSESSED LANDS		
	RENT-FREE.		
	Rent-free lands.	Jaigir lands.	Total of rent-free lands.
			Pargana
First settlement	15,332	−408	15,740
Re-settlement	5,012	...	5,012
Difference	−10,320	−408	−10,728
Percentage of difference	67·3	100·0	68·1
			Pargana
First settlement	7,261	2,932	10,193
Re-settlement	7,319	2,932	10,251
Difference	+58	...	+58
Percentage of difference	·8	...	·5
			Pargana
First settlement	15,047	893	15,940
Re-settlement	15,115	893	16,008
Difference	+68	...	+68
Percentage of difference	·4	...	·4
			Pargana
First settlement	7,807	336	8,143
Re-settlement	8,261	343	8,604
Difference	+454	+7	+461
Percentage of difference	5·8	2·1	5·6
			Pargana
First settlement	15,846	13,700	29,546
Re-settlement	16,399	13,554	29,953
Difference	+553	−146	+407
Percentage of difference	3·4	1·0	1·3
			Pargana
First settlement	4,817	1,010	5,827
Re-settlement	4,846	1,390	6,236
Difference	+29	+380	+409
Percentage of difference	·6	37·5	7·0
			For the whole
First settlement	66,110	19,279	85,389
Re-settlement	56,952	19,112	76,064
Difference	−9,158	−167	−9,325
Percentage of difference	13·8	·8	10·9

gana the variation of the different kinds of unassessed land existing first settlement.

IN BIGHAS.

KHAS.				Grand total of rent-free and khas lands or total of unassessed lands.	REMARKS.
Roads &c.	Sal, Sisu, Forests.	Jungles, swamps & other khas lands.	Total of khas lands.		
Mekhligunj.					
2,653	327	11,451	14,431	30,171	The sign + or − (plas or minus) indicates increase or decrease, respectively.
3,270	277	25,038	28,585	33,597	
+617	−50	+13,587	+14,154	+3,426	
23·2	15·2	118·6	98·0	11·3	
Mathabhanga.					
1,329	85	13,066	14,480	24,673	
1,941	30	27,357	29,328	39,579	
+612	−55	+14,291	+14,848	+14,906	
46·0	64·9	109·3	102·5	60·4	
Lalbazar.					
1,795	72	19,486	21,353	37,293	
2,484	156	26,088	28,728	44,736	
+689	+84	+6,602	+7,375	+7,443	
38·3	85·7	33·8	34·5	20·0	
Dinhata.					
2,893	129	12,632	15,654	23,797	
4,606	218	28,225	33,049	41,653	
+1,713	+89	+15,593	+17,395	+17,856	
59·2	69·0	123·4	111·1	75·0	
Cooch Behar.					
3,586	359	33,196	37,141	66,687	
4,955	9,442	44,104	58,501	88,454	
+1,369	+9,083	+10,908	+21,360	+21,767	
38·1	253·0	32·8	57·5	32·6	
Tufangunj.					
794	1,687	63,329	65,810	71,637	
1,446	19,685	55,352	76,483	82,719	
+652	+17,998	−7,977	+10,673	+11,082	
82.1	1,067·4	12·5	16·2	15·4	
State of Cooch Behar.					
18,050	2,659	1,53,160	1,68,869	2,54,258	
18,702	29,808	2,06,164	2,54,674	3,30,738	
+5,652	+27,149	+53,004	+85,805	+76,480	
43·3	1,021·0	34·6	50·8	30·0	

Khas lands.

Details of Khas land.

Of the two sub heads of unassessed lands, the rent-free lands have been partly noticed in a previous para. Fuller descriptions of these will be given later on. The khas lands are noticed here in detail.

Its Sub-divisions.

Khas lands or lands in the immediate possession of the State are of three kinds. First, those that are taken up by roads, *ghats* and markets ; secondly, Sal, Sisu and other forest lands; and thirdly, jungles, swamps and other khas lands. Lands of the first two descriptions can not be cultivated and can not be leased out, as they are permanently required for public purposes. A portion of the land of third description is fit for cultivation but for which there is no candidate at present.

Areas under roads &c.

The quantity of khas lands required for State purposes and incapable of cultivation and therefore barred from settlement is, according to the resettlement papers, 48,510 Bighas, and forms about 19 percent of the total khas area, the remaining 81 per. cent being contributed by jungles, swamps, and other khas lands. It will appear from the statement given above that since the first settlement there has been an increase of 5,652 Bighas or 43 per. cent of lands covered by roads &c. All the Parganas have shared the increase more or less, the largest increase having taken place in Cooch Behar and Dinhata. This increase is evidently due to the rapid opening up of the country by the construction of roads. Pargana Cooch Behar contains the seat of government, and as such has shared a large increase, the percentage attained being above 38. Pargana Dinhata stands first, as being near the regulation district of Rangpur and railway communication with Bengal.

The total area under roads is thus distributed among the different Parganas:—

Pargana.	Area under roads &c.	Percentage of land.
Mekhligunj	3,270	18
Mathabhanga	1,941	10
Lalbazar	2,484	13
Dinhata	4,606	25
Cooch Behar	4,955	27
Tufangunj	1,446	7
Total ...	18,702	100

Their extent.

Cooch Behar takes up 4,955 Bighas, or 27 percent, and stands first. Dinhata comes second with 4,606 Bighas, or 25 per cent, followed by Mekhligunj with 3,270 Bighas or 18 per cent. Lalbazar has 2,484 Bighas, or 13 percent and stands

fourth, and is above Mathabhanga which takes up 1,941 Bighas, or 10 percent. Tufangunj ranks last with 1,446 Bighas, or 7 per cent. As shewn below the area under roads &c., forms about two percent of the total area of the tracts under re-settlement :—

Pargana.	Total area of the tracts under re-settlement.	Total area under roads.	Percentage of the area under roads on total of Pargana.
Mekhligunj	2,97,265	3,270	1·1
Mathabhanga	3,82,172	1,941	·5
Lalbazar	2,87,802	2,484	·8
Dinhata	3,61,599	4,606	1·2
Cooch Behar	5,08,614	4,955	1·9
Tufangunj	2,86,244	1,446	·5
Total ...	21,23,696	18,702	1·9

Their proportion to total lands

The proportion is nearly the same as that of homestead lands to the whole of assessed lands, as will be noticed later on. It is the largest in Pargana Cooch Behar where the percentage of the land under roads on the total area is 1·9, and the smallest in Parganas Mathabhanga and Tufangunj where it is only one-half. Dinhata has 1·2 percent, while Mekhligunj has 1·1 and Lalbazar has ·8. Roads are thus more numerous, as compared with the area, in Cooch Behar than in any other part of the State, and Mathabhanga and Tufangunj have the smallest means of communication of all.

Area under forests.

Leaving out the two shooting Reserves in Bakshibas Putimari and Bilat Bishguri, the area under *Sal*, *Sisu* and teak forests is insignificant, and is 3,536 Bighas. The figures of the re-settlement, however, show an increase over those of the first settlement. The land covered by these forests and plantations was 2,659 Bighas in 1872. The increase during the 20 years that followed was 877 Bighas only. The largest area under forests, or rather plantations, lies in Pargana Cooch Behar, and this mostly grows Sisu trees.

Other khas lands.

As already noticed, the extent of the khas land which may in future become fit for settlement in jote right, forms 81 percent

of the total of khas area, and covers 2,06,164 Bighas, or about 106 square miles. This is made up of small rivers, forsaken beds of rivers, and swamps, as well as *chars*, and small patches of jungle lands. Although designated khas, the whole of this large area is not an unproductive waste. By far the greater portion of it covering 1,40,132 Bighas, or about 72 square miles, represents small rivers and swamps which are good fisheries, and are farmed out by the State as Syrat mehals every fourth year for a term of 3 years. These mehals bring in a large revenue annually, and are not fit to be leased out as jotes. In many cases a Syrat mehal fetches a better revenue than a jote of an equal size. Thus, a portion of the khas land is a source of revenue to the State, and must be left out of account in arriving at the actual quantity of land which brings in no revenue. The extent of this latter is, therefore, 66,032 Bighas, or about 34 square miles, forming a little above one-fiftieth part of the entire measured area of the country. The areas under jalas in the different Parganas are given below :—

Area under jala.

Name of Pargana.	Extent of Jalas in	
	Bighas.	Sq. miles
Mekhligunj	20,005	10·3
Mathabhanga	22,703	11·7
Lalbazar	23,114	11·9
Dinhata	21,450	11·1
Cooch Behar	31,178	16·1
Tufangunj	21,682	11·2
Total ...	1,40,132	72·3

CHAPTER III.

CLASSIFICATION OF LANDS.

SECTION I.

General Results of Classification.

Classification of land.

The examination and classification of the soil always form an important feature of the settlement of land revenue. As each plot of land is measured it has to be ascertained what the quality of the soil is and what crop is ordinarily grown on it. In Cooch Behar the land never appears to have been uniformly taxed at the same rate ; but a variation has always been made in the assessment according to the nature of the soil. In the times of the old Maharajas, although no elaborate classification was ever attempted, or could possibly be made, the principle of varying the revenue according to the productive power of the soil was never departed from.

Old three-fold division of land.

Writing towards the close of the last century Mr. Douglas makes mention of a three-fold division of the soil as having been in force from before his time ; and although no definition of a class is given we find that the land used to be divided into first, second, and third class. With the advance of years and the material prosperity of the people, a more elaborate system was adopted, which was in vogue till the beginning of the Government administration during the minority of His Highness.

Seven-fold classification before 1864.

Before 1864, there was a seven-fold classification of the soil prevalent in the State. This followed the general aspect of the country which is dotted over with homesteads containing betel-nut plam, and magnificent bamboo topes and orchards, scattered among cultivated areas. The remainder is either river and *beel*, or jungle and patit. Again, the entire cultivated area has not the same productive capacity, and a variation is necessary according to the richness of the soil.

The classification accordingly proceeded thus :—

1. Betel-nut garden.
2. Homestead.
   (*a*) of Jotedars.
   (*b*) of under-tenants.
3. Garden.
4. Bamboo.

5. Cultivated land.
   (*a*) *Awal* or first class.
   (*b*) *Duiam* or second class.
   (*c*) *Saiam* or third class.
   (*d*) *Chaharam* or fourth class.
6. *San* or thatching-grass land.
7. *Laik patit.*

Omission of jalas.

This classification has an important omission, as it overlooks the *Jalas*.

But formerly, as will appear hereafter, big sheets of water were never settled, and the formation of a different class under the name of Jala was not thus strictly necessary.

Grades of classification during first settlement.

At the time of the first settlement, commenced in Rahimgunj in 1864 and subsequently extended to the whole of the State, the object of the authorities was not so much to obtain a large increase as to get an amount of revenue assessed on measured area. The classification was accordingly made as general as possible to avoid large enhancements. The old classification was thus simplified and lands were brought under the following seven broad divisions, *Jalas* being added as a distinct class for the first time.

1. Homestead.
2. Bamboo.
3. Garden.
4. Cultivated land.
5. *Jala.*
6. *San* or thatching-grass land.
7. *Patit* land.

San or thatching-grass, although a kind of jungle, is more useful than any other jungle. It is an indispensable factor in the domestic economy of the people. Jungles were thus divided into *san*-grass land, and patit land, that is, other than *san*-grass land.

The Patit Churcha operations were strictly supplementary to those of 1872, and did not make any deviation from the mode of classification adopted at the first settlement.

The old classification revised during re-settlement.

In the course of the re-settlement operations the old classification of the pre-settlement period was revised. To begin with, the distinction made between homestead lands of jotedars and those of the under-tenants was done away with. This was only an artificial distinction, for there was no difference between these two kinds of homesteads. It was, therefore, not retained. Land adjoining

the house of a farmer, though not built upon or brought under cultivation, has a distinct use of its own, and can not be said to be as useless as the patit land. It is used for the thrashing of corn, drying of grains, feeding of the cattle, and many other household purposes, and is in fact as useful as the homestead land itself. This description of land was thus made into a separate class under "Ud-bastu" or lands similar or adjoining to Bastu or homestead land. The omission of the first classification in not recognising the small fisheries was rectified, and a distinct class brought into existence under "Jalas." All patit lands are not of equal value or use. Some are capable of cultivation, while others, such as private ways, burial grounds, places of rural worship, and so forth, can never be cultivated. Patit lands were thus classified into *Laik* and *Gurlaik*, *i.e.*, *fit* and *unfit* (for cultivation.)

Sub-divisions of cultivated land.

The most important feature of the re-settlement operations was, however, the adoption of several sub-divisions for the cultivated lands. The productive power of the cultivated area can not be the same every where, and a system of classification which did not recognise this fact could never pretend to be comprehensive. The division of cultivated lands according to the richness of the soil was necessary not only for the purpose of consistency, but also for affording relief to the tenantry by making the rate of rent varying according to the nature of the soil.

As has already been observed the schedule of classification of the pre-settlement days was more comprehensive than that adopted at the time of the first settlement. But owing to the absence of general measurement of lands it was of no practical use. The authors of the first settlement were anxious to ascertain the actual quantity of the lands in the possession of the Jotedars, and make an easy assessment on the same, so as to obtain a moderate increase on the then existing revenue. And this was the reason why an elaborate classification was not attempted during His Highness' minority. But when with the increase of the material prosperity of the people, and rise in the prices of food grains and other agricultural products, the State claimed an increase of revenue from its tenants, it became necessary, on the one hand, to find out all fair means of increase, and, on the other, to do away with the evils of uniform assessment, by recognising the difference which existed in the fertility of the soil in different places.

Tobacco land formed a distinct class.

The two main divisions created in the cultivated lands were,—tobacco lands, and lands other than tobacco lands. Tobacco is a highly paying crop and differs from other crops in point of actual profit. Then, it does not grow equally well on every soil, or in every part of the State. There are particular tracts which

can grow tobacco infinitely better than others, even if the amount of labour and skill bestowed on the cultivation are the same in both. A good deal of the success no doubt depends on proper manuring of the field, but this does not negative the presumption regarding the natural fitness of the soil for such a crop. Tobacco lands thus came to be differentiated from other cultivated lands. Every plot of land does not, again, grow tobacco equally well; accordingly tobacco lands were sub-divided into 3 classes according to the quality of the tobacco it grows. Similar sub-divisions were likewise made for other cultivated lands, which were divided under four sub heads according to the richness of the soil.

Sixteen-fold classification during the re-settlement.

The following sixteen-fold classification was thus adopted for the re-settlement of the State :—

1. Betelnut land.
2. *Bastu* or homestead.
3. *Udbastu* or land adjoining to Bastu or homestead.
4. Garden.
5. Bamboo.
6. Tobacco first class
7. Tobacco 2nd class.
8. Tobacco 3rd class.
9. *Awal* or first class cultivated land.
10. *Duium* or 2nd class,
11. *Saium* or 3rd class,
12. *Chaharam* 4th class,
13. *San* or thatching-grass land.
14. *Laik* Patit.
15. *Garlaik* Patit.
16. *Jala* or fishery.

This scale of classification was, as can be understood, applied not to whole of the assessed area, but only to such estates or jotes as were open to re-settlement. It is to be noted that there are *Makararis* or permanently settled estates which had been in existence from before, and which were settled permanently at the time of the first settlement. Some of the *Mokararis* and rent-free holdings, which were resumed in the course of the first settlement, were settled at half rates for a fixed number of years or until a future contingency, such as, the death of the holder, should arise. These were not open to enhancement when the re-settlement of the temporarily settled jotes was taken up.

Area under re-settlement.

The table on pages 490-491 gives the result of the detailed classification of lands made during the re-settlement operations separately for each Pargana. It will be seen that apart from the size of a Pargana, the quantity of classified lands, or the area under re-settlement, is the largest in Pargana Cooch Behar which has 508 thousand Bighas; Mathabhanga comes next with 382 thousand Bighas; Dinhata stands third with 361 thousands; Mekhligunj ranks fourth with 297, followed by Lalbazar with 287; while Tufangunj has got the smallest area, taking up only 286 thousand Bighas of classified lands.

High lands and low lands.

A farmer invariably builds his house on a piece of raised land in the holding, and ordinarily plants betel-nut and orchard trees around it, and gives a cover to the whole with bamboos. All these therefore naturally require high land. Then come tobacco fields which lie close to the court yard: and as the cultivation of the crop has to be commenced before the rains have fairly ceased, only the high lands can take in the tobacco. Again, the lands of the description *Saium* and *Chaharam*, or third and fourth class paddy lands, are all high areas, as is also the *San* or thatching-grass land. On the other hand, *Awal* and *Duiam*, or first and second class paddy lands, are generally situated at the lowest level of the village, and go under water at the first approach of the rains. Jalas are also depressed areas which are not generally out of water in any part of the year. These three kinds of lands, therefore, represent the low lands of the village. The patit lands are neutral, and can be either high or low.

What high lands are.

Leaving the patit lands out of consideration the high lands of a village may be fairly held to be composed of the following classes of the soil:—

Betel-nut.

Bastu and Udbastu.

Garden.

Tobacco.

Bamboo.

Saium and Chaharam.

San or thatching-grass land.

In like manner the low lands are covered by the *Awal*, *Duiam* and *Jala* heads of the classification table.

Table showing detailed classification of lands

No.	Class of Land.	QUANTITY OF	
		Mekhligunj.	Matabhanga.
1	Betelnut	568	1,435
2	Bastu or homestead and Udbastu ...	3,383	3,814
3	Garden	412	794
	A—Total	4,363	6,043
4	Bamboo	6,359	9,564
5	Tobacco, 1st class	1,474	7,477
6	Ditto 2nd class	5,220	15,276
7	Ditto 3rd class	5,097	8,624
	B—Total of tobacco	11,791	31,377
8	Awal or 1st class land	48,007	62,596
9	Duiam or 2nd class land	53,167	61,814
	C—Total of Awal and Duiam ...	1,01,174	1,24,410
10	Saiam or 3rd class land	57,983	58,961
11	Chaharam or 4th class land	35,626	36,761
	D—Total of 3rd and 4th class lands ...	93,609	95,682
	E—Total of other cultivated land (C+D)	1,94,783	2,20,092
	F—Total of cultivated land (B + E)	2,06,574	2,51,469
	G—Total of cultivated, homestead and garden lands (A+F)	2,10,937	2,57,512
12	San or thatching grass land	10,450	13,262
	Total of clasess 4 to 12 ...	2,17.024	2,64,731
	Grand total of classes 1 to 12... ...	2,21,387	2,70,774
13	Laik-patit	56,279	93,411
14	Garlaik-patit	12,359	7,424
	Total of patit lands (13 + 14) ...	68,638	1,00,835
	Total of jungle lands (12 + 13 + 14)	79,088	1,14,097
15	Jala	881	999
	Great Grand Total	2,97,264	3,82,172

made in the course of the re-settlement.

Land in Bighas in Pargana.				Total of each kind of land.
Lalbazar.	Dinhata.	Cooch Behar.	Tufangunj.	
301	1,406	2,532	1,390	7,632
2,917	6,383	5,915	2,768	25,180
444	1,016	1,054	641	4,361
3,662	8,805	9,501	4,799	37,173
7,693	10,197	11,394	4,913	50,120
17,935	2,867	3,364	36	33,153
8,695	5,484	7,545	107	42,327
3,080	3,640	9,035	942	30,418
29,710	11,991	19,944	1,085	1,05,898
35,688	66,554	55,192	24,085	2,92,122
43,986	94,761	96,471	49,127	3,99,326
79,674	1,61,315	1,51,663	73,212	6,91,448
53,357	67,486	1,13,011	62,056	4,12,814
49,720	19,656	40,928	39,354	2,22,045
1,03,077	87,142	1,53,939	1,01,410	6,34,859
1,82,751	2,48,457	3,05,602	1,74,622	13,26,307
2,12,461	2,60,448	3,25,546	1,75,707	14,32,205
2,16,123	2,69,253	3,35,047	1,80,506	14,69,378
8,978	14,293	14,360	6,608	67,951
2,21,439	2,74,741	3,39,906	1,82,315	15,00,156
2,25,101	2,83,546	3,49,407	1,87,114	15,37,329
50,008	60,176	1,37,523	90,126	4,87,523
3,823	6,689	9,241	3,390	42,926
53,831	66,865	1,46,764	93,516	5,30,449
62,809	81,158	1,61,124	1,00,124	5,98,400
1,177	991	1,049	701	5,798
2,87,802	3,61,599	5,08,614	2,86,244	21,23,696

Distribution of high land and lowland.

The statement given below shows the distribution, based on the foregoing observations, of the high lands in the different Parganas :—

Name of Pargana	Quantity of high land.	Total of assessed area.	Percentage of high land on total assessed area.
	Bighas.	Bighas.	
Mekhligunj	1,26,572	2,97,265	40
Mathabhanga	1,55,928	38,212	40
Lalbazar	1,53,120	2,87,802	50
Dinhata	1,32,428	3,61,599	36
Cooch Behar	2,09,138	5,08,614	40
Tufangunj	1,18,815	2,86,244	39
Total ...	8,96,001	21,23,696	42

Proportion of high land largest in Lalbazar, and smallest in Dinhata.

It will appear from the above that of the total of 21,23,696 Bighas of the area under re-settlement, 8,96,001 Bighas are composed of high lands. For all practical purposes it may be accepted that this proportion holds good for the entire State, and that 42 percent of the lands is high ; or of every 5 bighas of land in the State about 2 Bighas are high land. The quantity of high land is the greatest in Lalbazar (50 percent), and smallest in Dinhata (36 percent) and Tufangunj (39 percent). In Mekhligunj, Mathabhanga and Cooch Behar, the proportion is about normal, or 40 percent. The high land is best suited to the cultivation of tobacco, and the low land to that of paddy. This is why Lalbazar is the best tobacco tract, and Tufangunj and Dinhata are good paddy districts.

Homestead and garden.

The total of the homestead lands is 25,180 Bigha, and forms a little above one percent of the re-assessed area. Thus, in every hundred Bighas of assessed land, the house of the farmer occupies only 1 Bigha and 4 Kattahs. This proportion varies in the different Parganas. It is the highest in Dinhata, being about 2 percent, and the lowest in Mathabhanga, being less than 1 percent of the total area. Cooch Behar ranks second, while in Lalbazar, Mekhligunj and Tufangunj the proportion is normal. It is interesting to note how these figures roughly tally with the figures of the Census of 1891, whereby Dinhata was found to have the thickest population in the whole State.

Most numerous in Dinhata.

Betelnut.

Betelnut lands form ·4, or a little less than one-half percent of the total assessed area. Thus, for every Bigha of homestead

there is 7 Kattas of betelnut. These trees abound in Cooch Behar and Tufangunj, where the percentage is 5·, or 10 Kattas for every Bigha built upon. In Mathabhanga and Dinhata the proportion is normal, while in Mekhligunj it is ·2, or 4 Kattas to the Bigha, and in Lalbazar it is still less, being about 2 Kattas to the Bigha of homestead land.

Bamboos.

Bamboo abounds everywhere in the State. The area covered by it is 50,120 Bighas and forms 2·4 percent of the re-assessed area. The percentage of the lands covered by bamboo over the total of re-assessed lands is the largest in Dinhata, and the smallest in Tufangunj, being 2·16 and 1·15, respectively. In each of the other Parganas it is almost normal, although in Lalbazar it is a little higher than the average, and in Cooch Behar a little lower. It would thus appear that while garden lands scarcely came up to half of the Bastu lands, the area covered by bamboo is on an average about 2 Bighas for every Bigha of land built upon. Some idea of this vast quantity of bamboo is better formed by an illustration. If all the bamboos of the State were collected together and planted around the country along the borders we shall get a wall of live bamboo about 100 yards thick.

Extensive in Dinhata.

Vastness of bamboo illustrated.

Orchard trees.

Fruit trees are comparatively more numerous in Dinhata than any where else in the State. They cover about ·3 percent of the assessed area, or about 6 Kattas to a Bigha of homestead. In Cooch Behar the proportion is a little above ·2 percent, or 4 Kattas to one Bigha of Bastu. In other Parganas the proportion is not even ·1 percent ; or in other words, the fruit trees do not cover even 2 Kattas of land while the homestead lies on one Bigha in Mekhligunj, Mathabhanga, Lalbazar and Tufangunj. For the whole State the percentage is ·2 only, and clearly shows that the entire country is on the whole very poor in respect of fruit trees.

Country poor in respect of fruit trees.

AREA UNDER CULTIVATION.

Cultivated lands.

The area under cultivation within the re-assessed tracts is 14,32,205 Bighas, which forms 67·5 percent of the total under re-settlement. Cultivation is most extensive in Lalbazar where the proportion of cultivated lands is 73·8 percent of the total of the re-assessed area ; and Mathabhanga and Tufangunj rank last with 65·8 and 61·4 percent, respectively. In Mekhligunj and Dinhata the proportion is above the average, namely, 69·5 percent in the former, and 72 percent in the latter ; while in Cooch Behar the cultivation is below the average, with a percentage of 64 only.

TOBACCO LAND.

Of the 67·5 percent made up of the total the area under cultivation, 5 percent grows tobacco, while the remaining 62·5

percent is concerned with other crops. Thus, for every 13 Bighas of the cultivated area, one is under tobacco, and the remaining 12 grow paddy, jute, mustard, wheat, *china*, *kaon*, etc.

Percentage of tobacco cultivation largest in Lalbazar.

The total of tobacco lands is 1,05,898 Bighas, which forms, as noted above 5 percent of the area under re-settlement, and 7·3 per cent of cultivated lands. This percentage is the highest in Lalbazar where it is 10·3, and the lowest in Tufangunj, where it is ·4. In fact very little tobacco is grown in Tufangunj except for the cultivator's own consumption. Mathabhanga ranks second with 8·1 percent, followed by Cooch Behar and Mekhligunj, which have 3·9 and 4 percent, respectively. Dinhata comes last but Tufangunj with a percentage of 3·3. The superiority of Lalbazar in respect of tobacco crop consists not only in proportionally the largest cultivation, but also in the excellence of the leaves. Among the places especially noted for tobacco within the Pargana itself, are Taluks Adabari and Barabangla. There is an adage which runs to the following effect.—

Adábárir pát,
Bárabánglár ját,

which means "Adabari has the best leaf and Barabangla, the best quality."

Comparative extent of cultivation.

It is noted above that tobacco lands form 7·3 percent of the entire cultivated lands. This proportion varies in the different Parganas as shewn below :—

Mekhligunj ...	... 5·7	Per. cent.
Mathabhanga ...	... 12·4	,,
Lalbazar ...	... 13·9	,,
Dinhata ...	... 4·6	,,
Cooch Behar ...	... 6·1	,,
Tufangunj ...	... ·6	,,

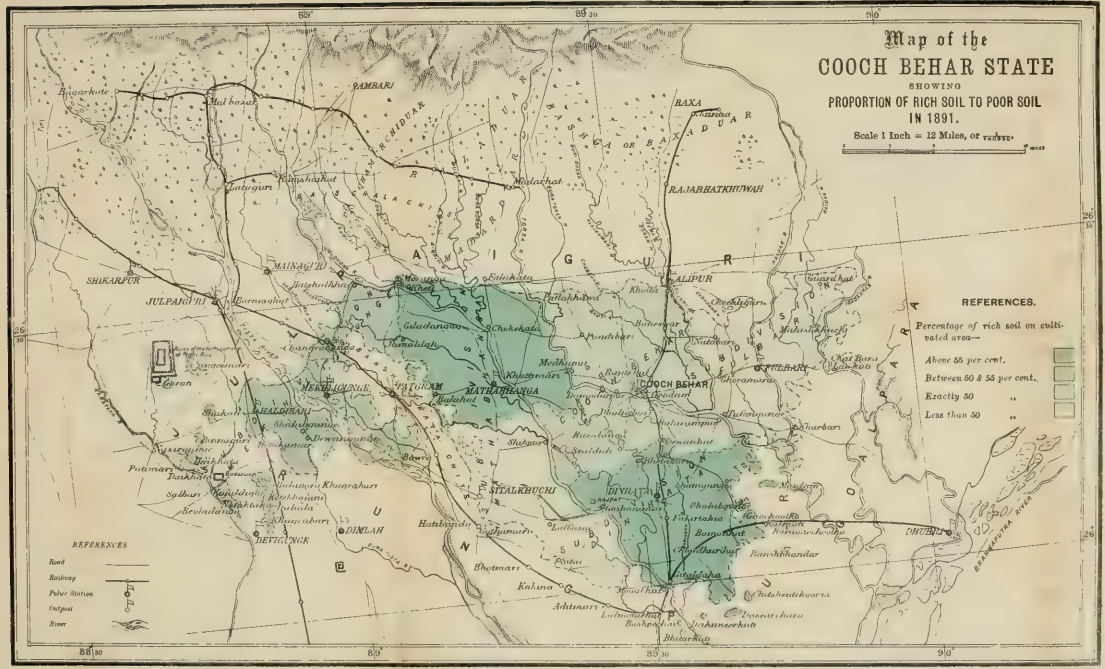
It is the highest in Lalbazar where the tobacco land takes up 14 percent of the cultivated lands, and the lowest in Tufangunj, where it does only ·6. Mathabhanga has 12·4 percent. Cooch Behar makes 6·1 per cent., Mekhligunj 5·7 and Dinata 4·6.

Quality of tobacco.

Of the total area under cultivation, namely, 1,05,898 Bighas, a little less than a third, or 33,153 Bighas produces first class tobacco, and not a full half, or 42,327 Bighas, second class; while the proportion of the third class tobacco is not even a third of the whole. Of all the Parganas Lalbazar has the largest quantity, as well as the largest proportion, of first class lands which form above 60 percent of the entire area under tobacco cultivation in this Pargana. No other Pargana can do so much as even approach

Lalbazar yields the best tobacco.

area under cultivation. Except in Lalbazar, Cooch Behar and



To face page 4-95.

Ind. No. 198. Drawn at the Survey Office, Calcutta — [illegible]

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sufficiently near it in this respect. The tobacco districts next in importance are Mathabhanga and Dinhata, where the percentage of the first class tobacco is a little above 23. Cooch Behar comes next with 17 percent, followed by Mekhligunj with 12. Tufangunj has got only 3 percent.

OTHER CULTIVATED LANDS.

Other cultivated lands.

Of the entire area under cultivation, crops other than tobacco take up 13,26,307 Bighas, or 62 per cent. of the entire, and 92 per cent of the cultivated, lands. Thus, in every 100 Bighas of cultivated area, tobacco fields occupy 8, and other crops, 92 Bighas. The area under cultivation of crops other than tobacco is the largest in Cooch Behar ; but the percentage is the highest in Dinhata, while it is the lowest in Mathabhanga. Mekhligunj takes up the second place, and Lalbazar third place ; while Tufangunj stands fourth, and Cooch Behar comes off fifth and last but one.

Four divisions of such land.

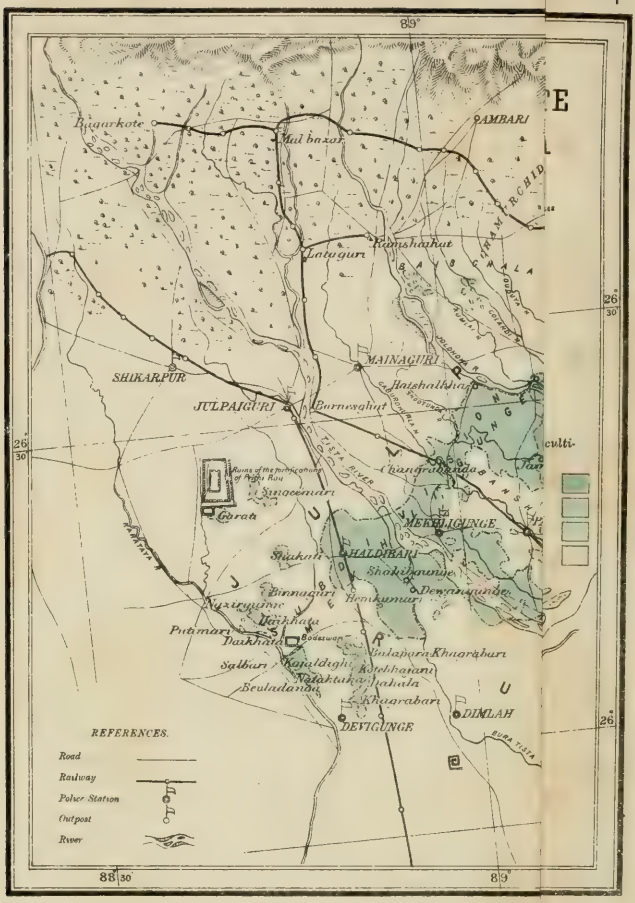
These lands are subdivided into four classes—*Awal* or first class ; *Duiam* or second class ; *Saium* or third class ; and *Chaharam* or fourth class. Lands of the first two descriptions, namely, *Awal* and *Duiam*, represent the richest soil of the village ; while *Saiam* and *Chaharam* compose mostly high and sandy lands with a considerable poverty in the soil. Dividing the cultivated lands into these two main heads we get the following results for the different Parganas :—

Rich soil and poor soil.

Name of Pargana.	Total of Awal and Duiam land.	Total of Saiam and Chaharam land.	Grand total.
Mekhligunj	1,01,174	93,609	1,94,783
Mathabhanga	1,24,410	95,682	2,20,092
Lalbazar	79,674	1,03,077	1,82,751
Dinhata	1,61,315	87,142	2,48,457
Cooch Behar	1,51,663	1,53,939	3,05,602
Tufangunj	73,212	1,01,410	1,74,622
Total ...	6,91,448	6,34,859	13,26,307
Percentage of the land of each kind on the total ...	52·1	47·9	100·0

Their proportion in different Parganas.

It would appear from the above that the largest quantity of best soil lies in Dinhata, although Cooch Behar has the largest area under cultivation. Except in Lalbazar, Cooch Behar and



To face page 495.

Reg. No. 299. Dewan of the Cooch Behar State.—Ap. to p. 490. Calcutta.

Pargana. No other Pargana can do so much as even approach

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It would appear from the above that the largest quantity of best soil lies in Dinhata, although Cooch Behar has the largest area under cultivation. Except in Lalbazar, Cooch Behar and

Tufangunj, the *Awal* and *Duiam* lands exceed lands of the inferior sorts in every other Pargana, and the total for the entire State also shows a similar result. In fact 52·1 per. cent. of the cultivated area is good soil, and the remaining 47·9 inferior soil. The proportion of good soil is the largest in Dinhata where 52·8 per. cent of the cultivated lands is *Awal* and *Duiam*, while it is the smallest in Lalbazar, where the percentage is only 43·6. Mathabhanga has 56·5 per. cent. Every where else the proportion is below the normal. In Cooch Behar one half of the cultivated area has good soil, and the other half bad. Mekhligunj is a little better than Cooch Behar in this respect, with above 50 per. cent. in good soil, and Tufangunj a little worse with 41·9 per. cent.

Sub-divisions patit lands.

UNCULTIVATED LANDS.

Of the uncultivated and uninhabited area the two divisions are—

1. San or thatching-grass land.
2. Patit lands, sub-divided into—

(*a*) Laik, or fit for cultivation, and

(*b*) Garlaik, not so fit.

Their distribution.

The following statement shows the distribution of these lands throughout the re-settled portion of the State :—

Name of Pargana.	San or thatching grass land.	PATIT LAND.			Grand Total.
		Laik.	Garlaik.	Total.	
1. Mekhligunj ...	10,450	56,279	12,359	68,638	79,088
2. Mathabhanga...	13,262	93,411	7,424	1,00,835	1,14,097
3. Lalbazar ...	8,978	50,008	3,823	53,831	62,809
4. Dinhata ...	14,293	60,176	6,689	66,865	81,158
5. Cooch Behar ...	14,360	1,37,523	9,241	1,46,764	1,61,124
6. Tufangunj ...	6,608	90,126	3,390	93,516	1,00,124
Total ...	67,951	4,87,523	42,926	5,30,449	5,98,400
Percentage of each kind on total lands	3·2	22·9	2·0	24·9	28·1

It will be seen that more than 28 per cent., or above a fourth, of the re-settled area is composed of *san* or thatching-grass land

and patit land, which are not cultivated by the farmer. The thatching grass and Garlaik patit lands, or a little above 5 per cent. of the entire area, are never expected to be cultivated. The land of the first description is kept up for getting straw for thatching purposes, and is never cleared. Garlaik patit lands, again, are not capable of cultivation and will always remain unbroken. These two classes of lands, therefore, represent what may be called the permanently unbroken lands within the assessed area.

Uncultivated lands form the cultivators reserve fund.

Laik patit lands, which form about 23 per cent. or a little above a fifth of the entire area under re-settlement, are on the other hand temporary jungles which form a sort of reserve fund of the cultivator and which will be in time brought under cultivation. Thus, the larger is the quantity of this land in a holding the better off is the rayat from the stand point of agricultural economy.

Smallness of waste land and progress of cultivation.

This source of future income, or reserve fund of the cultivator, is the largest in Tufangunj, and the smallest in Dinhata, the percentage of laik patit lands on the total area under re-settlement being 31·4 in the former, and 16·6 in the latter. Cooch Behar stands second with 27·0 per cent., followed by Mathabhanga with 24·4. Then comes Mekhligunj with a percentage of 18·8, and Lalbazar is last but one and has 17·3 per cent.

This in equality of the laik patit lands in the different Parganas also tends to show the progress of cultivation made in the State since the first settlement. By far the greater number of the jotes under re-settlement were in existence at the time of the first settlement. They had been under cultivation for more than 20 years before the re-settlement was made. Large clearances must have been made in the interval and when the lands were classified during the re-settlement, there was not probably much patit land in them. In places, however, a good number of jotes became injured by the action of the rivers and other causes, and lands that had been cultivated in 1872 came to be patit in 1890. But notwithstanding such changes cultivation appears to have increased since 1872, as will be noticed later on.

Jalas or small waters forming private fisheries.

All fisheries belong to the State. Small reserviors of water, or small private fisheries, ordinarily of less than two Bighas in area, were, under the rules, included within the jotes in which they were situated, and assessed with other lands of the jotes. The total area thus incorporated with assessed lands was 5,798 Bighas, or about ·27 percent of the re-settled tract; that is to say of every hundred Bighas of assessed lands about a fourth of a Bigha, or 5 Kattas, was for Jalas or small swamps. The largest

swampy area lies in Lalbazar which is interspersed with innumerable dead rivers and *nalas*, which have now become mostly dry, and contain of water here and there, which are never good fisheries,and are at best only poor reserviors of tolerably pure water.

General summary of classification.

To summarise, every hundred Bighas of the re-settled tract do, on an average, contain the following proportion of lands of the different classes :—

	B.	K.		B.	K.
Betelnut	0	7			
Bastu and Udbastu ...	1	4	Other cultivated lands ...	62	9
Garden	0	4	San grass	3	4
Bamboo	2	7	Patit	24	19
Tobacco	5	0	Jala	0	6
Carried over ...	9	2	Total ...	100	0

To put the thing more broadly, in every hundred Bighas of the type normal in Cooch Behar the cultivator has 4 Bighas for his house and gardens, 68 Bighas for his corn fields, 3 for his *khar* land, and a small ditch to steep his jute in, while there remains 24 Bighas, or about a fourth, of his entire holding as a fallow which he can gradually break up, and thus add to his income, without having to pay at a higher rate of revenue.

Factors of hundred Bighas.

The subjoined table gives the same figures for the different Parganas :—

CLASS OF LAND.	PROPORTION OF THE LAND OF EACH KIND IN PARGANA.						
	Mekhliganj.	Mathabhanga.	Lalbazar.	Dinhata.	Cooch Behar.	Tufanganj.	Total of all the Parganas.
	B. K.	B. K.	B. K.	B. K.	B. K.	B. K.	B. K.
1. Betelnut ...	0 4	0 8	0 2	0 8	0 10	0 10	0 7
2. Bastu and Udbastu.	1 3	0 18	1 0	1 15	1 3	1 0	1 4
3. Garden ..	0 2	0 4	0 3	0 6	0 4	0 4	0 4
4. Bamboo ...	2 3	2 11	2 14	2 16	2 5	1 15	2 7
5. Total of 1,2,3,&4	3 12	4 1	3 19	5 5	4 2	3 9	4 2
6. Tobacco ...	3 19	8 4	10 6	3 7	3 18	0 8	5 0
7. Other cultivated lands.	65 10	57 12	63 10	68 14	60 2	61 0	62 9
8. Total of 6 and 7	69 9	65 16	73 16	72 1	64 0	61 8	67 9
9. San grass ..	3 10	3 9	3 19	3 19	2 17	2 6	3 4
10. Patit ...	23 2	26 8	18 14	18 9	28 16	32 13	24 19
11. Jala	0 7	0 6	0 8	0 6	0 5	0 4	0 6
Grand total of 5, 8, 9, 10 and 11.	100 0	100 0	100 0	100 0	100 0	100 0	100 0

Thus Cooch Behar and Tufangunj possess the largest proportion of betelnut; Dinhata of Bastu, garden, bamboo, paddy lands and san-grass; Lalbazar of tobacco, and cultivated lands as a whole, and also of Jala; and Tufangunj of patit lands. In different Parganas.

It would be interesting to compare the results of the resettlement operations with those of the first settlement. Unhappily a detailed comparison is impossible owing to the absence of a detailed tabulation of classification in the first settlement papers. In those records Bastu and garden lands are tabulated together, and the thatching grass land is added on to the cultivated land. Comparison with first settlement.

The mode of tabulation followed at the first settlement was aimed at checking the assessment by bringing together all lands bearing the same rate of revenue. The comparison can not, therefore, be full. Still some idea can be formed regarding the progress or the reverse of population and cultivation by viewing the figures of the last two settlements side by side, so far as practicable.

The table given below compares the state of homestead and garden lands at the time of the first settlements with that at the time of the re-settlement :— Homestead and garden lands.

NAME OF PARGANA.	QUANTITY OF BASTU AND GARDEN LANDS AS EXISTING AT		Difference at resettlement.	Percentage of the difference.
	The first settlement.	The resettlement.		
Mekhligunj ...	4,109	4,363	+ 254	+ 6·1
Mathabhanga ...	5,866	6,043	+ 177	+ 3·0
Lalbazar ...	3,634	3,662	+ 28	+ ·7
Dinhata ...	8,866	8,805	− 61	− ·7
Cooch Behar ...	12,623	9,501	−3122	−24·8
Tufangunj ...	4,897	4,799	− 98	− 2·0
Total ...	39,995	37,173	−2822	− 6·0

It will be seen that in three of the Parganas, namely, Mekhligunj, Mathabhanga and Lalbazar, homestead and garden lands increased, and in the remaining three, namely, Dinhata, Cooch Behar, and Tufangunj, it decreased in the course of the two decades Inference as to population.

that intervened between the two settlements, the decrease being very marked in the Cooch Behar Pargana. In this country gardens spring up though very slowly with the spread of habitation, and every new Bigha of garden indicates a proportionate increase of homestead land. The converse is also to some extent true. When a site is abandoned the trees that are planted around it gradually disappear for want of care when the garden is not full grown. In this sense, decrease of garden lands is an index to the decrease of habitation. The decrease in the total of these kinds of lands, therefore, marks a permanent decrease in habitation and consequently of population.

Cultivated and thatching grass lands.

The variation of the cultivated and the *san*-grass lands will be seen from the subjoined statement:—

NAME OF PARGANA.	QUANTITY OF CULTIVATED AND SAN-GRASS LANDS AT		Variation in Bighas.	Percentage of variation.
	The first settlement in Bighas.	Re settlement in Bighas.		
Mekhligunj ...	2,07,864	2,17,024	+ 9,160	+ 4·4
Mathabhanga ...	2,80,313	2,64,731	− 15,582	− 5·5
Lalbazar ...	2,27,066	2,21,439	− 5,627	− 2·4
Dinhata ...	2,71,982	2,74,741	+ 2,759	+ 1·0
Cooch Behar ...	3,64,071	3,39,906	− 24,165	− 6·6
Tufangunj ...	1,64,727	1,82,315	+ 17,588	+ 10·6
Total ...	15,16,023	15,00,156	− 15,867	− 1·0

Increase of cultivation.

It will appear from the above that the total of thatching grass and cultivated lands has on the whole suffered a decrease of 15,867 Bighas, or 1·0 percent of land recorded at the first settlement. In some of the Parganas, however, such as Mekhligunj, Dinhata, and Tufangunj, an increase in this respect is perceptible. Except in the suddar thatching-grass is very seldom sold. A cultivator keeps as much land of thatching grass as is required for his own use, and brings the surplus land, if any, under cultivation. The land of this description may thus be regarded as practically constant. Increase in the total of the cultivated and the thatching grass lands, therefore, means an addition to the cultivated area in the State. A decrease in the total similarly marks a corres-

ponding decrease of the area under cultivation. It would, therefore, be seen that while on the whole cultivation decreased, it increased in some of the Parganas, namely, Mekhligunj, Dinhata and Tufangunj.

The percentage of the area under cultivation and san-grass was, however, higher at the re-settlement, having been 7·1 against 7·0 during the first settlement. This indicates an increase of cultivation by about one per cent.

Increase under "Bamboo."

The following table shows the result of comparison of the bamboo lands, existing at the two different periods marked by the two settlements :—

NAME OF PARGANA.	QUANTITY OF BAMBOO LANDS EXISTING AT		Variation.	Percentage of variation.
	The first settlement.	Resettlement.		
Mekhligunj ...	5,088	6,359	+ 1,271	+ 24
Mathabhanga ...	7,871	9,564	+ 1,693	+ 21
Lalbazar ...	7,256	7,693	+ 437	+ 6
Dinhata ...	9,819	10,197	+ 378	+ 4
Cooch Behar ...	11,240	11,394	+ 154	+ 1
Tufangunj ...	4,349	4,913	+ 564	+ 2
Total ...	45,623	50,120	+ 4,497	+ 9

Largest increase in the west of the State.

It will be seen that land under bamboo has extended in every Pargana, as well as on the whole. The percentage of the increase is the largest in Parganas Mekhligunj and Mathabhanga, and the smallest in Cooch Behar and Tufangunj. Decrease of population or cultivation has no immediate effect upon the state of existing bamboo; at least nothing is capable of being perceived in 22 or 23 years, when a cluster of bamboo even if not cared for lives for years. Bamboo is so necessary to a householder that with each

shifting of the house new bamboos are planted, and every new settler grows bamboo on his land. Thus bamboo goes on increasing even if homesteads are deserted, and this fact explains the increase under the head of bamboo.

Decrease of patit lands.

The following table compares the Patit lands existing at the time of the re-settlement with those at the time of the first settlement :—

NAME OF PARGANA.	QUANTITY OF PATIT LANDS AT		Variation in Bighas.	Percentage of variation.
	The first settlement in Bighas.	Resettlement in Bighas.		
Mekhligunj ...	82,349	68,638	−13,711	− 16·6
Mathabhanga ...	94,968	1,00,835	+ 5,867	+ 6·1
Lalbazar	55,067	53,831	− 1,236	− 2·2
Dinhata	77,012	66,865	−10,147	− 13·1
Cooch Behar ...	1,36,589	1,46,764	+10,175	+ 7·4
Tufangunj ...	1,15,697	93,516	−22,181	− 19·5
Total ...	5,61,683	5,30,449	−31,234	− 5·5

Decrease in patit and cultivated lands explained.

It will be seen that except in Parganas Mathabhanga, and Cooch Behar, patit lands decreased everywhere, and that the total for the entire State shows a decrease of 31,234 Bighas, or 5·5 percent of the lands recorded at the first settlement. This decrease is partly attributable to the increase of cultivation, and partly to diluvion or relinquishment of bad jotes or waste lands. It is to be noted that in each of the three parganas of Mekhligunj, Dinhata and Tufangunj, where there has been an increase under the cultivated and the thatching grass lands, a decrease has also occurred in patit lands. But as the decrease was due not entirely to the spread of cultivation, but partly to diluvion also, and as the increase under cultivated and thatchinggrass lands can not be attributed to the increase of cultivation alone, as noted above, the extents of the increase and that of the decrease do not correspond with each other. The increase under the patit lands in Parganas Mathabhanga and Cooch Behar is in like manner due to the contraction of the cultivated area by diluvion, or deterioration of the soil by floods, and to the settlement of Payasthi lands, such

as sandy *chars* and dried up beels. It is remarkable that in these two Parganas there has been a decrease under the cultivated area also. For reasons already given, the figures of the increase and the decrease do not in this case also tally with each other. The decrease in both these cases is larger than the increase, and is explained by the fact that on the whole there has been a decrease of the assessed area since the time of the first settlement, as noticed in the foregoing Chapter.

Increase of assessed Jalas

The figures given below show the variation of the area under small Jalas incorporated with the jotes at the time of the re-settlement :—

NAME OF PARGANA.	QUANTITY OF JALA LANDS AT		Variation in Bighas.	Percentage of Variation.
	The first settlement in Bighas.	Re-settlement in Bighas.		
Mekhligunj ...	379	881	+ 502	+132·4
Mathabhanga ...	441	999	+ 558	+126·5
Lalbazar ...	560	1,177	+ 617	+117·3
Dinhata ...	422	991	+ 569	+134·8
Cooch Behar ...	395	1,049	+ 654	+170·1
Tufangunj ...	99	701	+ 602	+608·0
Total ...	2,296	5,798	+3,502	+152·5

Explained.

The area under small *jalas* or fisheries increased in every Pargana, the total increase having been 3,502 Bighas or 152·5 percent of the area recorded at the first settlement. Formerly, all fisheries above two Bighas in area were held khas by the State, and they constituted Syrat mehals. During the re-settlement operations this rule was relaxed, and a number of such Jalas were incorporated with the assessed lands. This fact accounts for the increase of Jala-lands.

SECTION II.

Waste lands and Uncultivated areas.

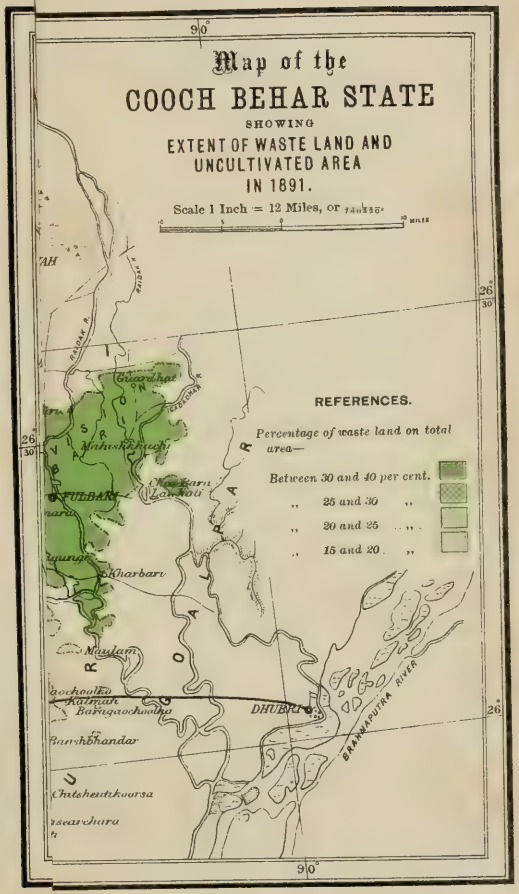
Patit land and jungles.

Some parts of the State were formerly full of jungles and swamps and marshy tracts. This was specially the case in the north-east of Pargana Tufangunj in a tract of country called Bilat Bishguri. In other Parganas also there were small waste areas. These were unassessed, and were abodes of wild beasts. They formed excellent pasture for herds of buffaloes, which used to graze on them from October to July. They also furnished good hunting grounds, and many a tiger, leopard, rhino, bear and wild buffaloe, not to speak of herds of deer and antilopes, have been shot in these wild tracts. Again, as already observed, the whole of the assessed area is not cultivated. There are some lands in it, and they form about 25 per cent, which are lying waste. The surface of the country may, therefore, be divided into cultivated and waste areas.

Extent of waste land during first settlement.

The quantity of land lying waste and uncultivated at the time of the first settlement, concerned with the portion of the State under the re-settlement, was 7,16,756 Bighas as detailed below:—

Name of Pargana.	Total of assessed and khas lands.	QUANTITY OF WASTE LAND.			Percentage.
		Recorded as khas.	Incorporated with jotes.	Total.	
Mekhligunj ...	3,14,220	11,685	82,349	94,034	30
Mathabhanga ...	4,03,940	13,151	94,968	1,08,119	26
Lalbazar... ...	3,14,937	19,557	55,068	74,625	24
Dinhata	3,83,755	12,762	77,012	89,774	24
Cooch Behar ...	5,62,057	34,374	1,36,589	1,70,963	30
Tufangunj ...	3,55,578	63,544	1,15,697	1,79,241	50
Total ...	23,34,487	1,55,073	5,61,683	7,16,756	30


Map of the
COOCH BEHAR STATE
SHOWING
EXTENT OF WASTE LAND AND
UNCULTIVATED AREA
IN 1891.
Scale 1 Inch = 12 Miles, or
MILES
90°
26° 30'
26°
REFERENCES.
Percentage of waste land on total area—
Between 30 and 40 per cent.
,, 25 and 30 ,,
,, 20 and 25 ,,
,, 15 and 20 ,,
Kharbari
Mainaguri
Maynam
DHUBRI
BRAHMAPUTRA RIVER


Map of the
COOCH BEHAR STATE
SHOWING
EXTENT OF WASTE LAND AND
UNCULTIVATED AREA
IN 1891.
Scale 1 Inch = 12 Miles, or 760800
REFERENCES.
Percentage of waste land on total area—
Between 30 and 40 per cent.
,, 25 and 30 ,,
,, 20 and 25 ,,
,, 15 and 20 ,,
REFERENCES
Road
Railway
Police Station
Outpost
River
Ragarkote
Mal bazar
RAMRARI
BAXA
Chainia
RAJABHATKHUWAH
Gumshighat
Gotiyari
Modarhat
SHIKARPUR
MAINAGURI
Hatshalkhuta
Marichbari
Khata
JULPAIGURI
Barnesbat
Tallakhawa
ALIPUR
Gaurahat
Chuksakola
Pundibari
Dalkhawa
Chaingrabandha
Jamaldubi
Moulapur
Khottimari
Rajarhat
PITALKHATA
Goraa
Sangamari
MEKHLIGUNGE
PATGRAM
MATHABHANGA
COOCH BEHAR
Dangrachapra
Sitalkuchi
Balarhat
Bhulukdubi
Sukati
HALDIBARI
Shukatanuwe
Bhulumpur
Tufanganj
Barnagari
Dangimarite
Rasulpur
Shibpur
Sonidubi
Devanhat
Maxirguttee
Patimari
Baxirhat
Bhurri
Dakhinpat
Salbari
Khuiabari
Kachhamara
Kalchini
Khagrabari
Bandarkatha
DEVIGUNGE
DIMLAH
Hatibandha
Bhotmari
Kahuna
Adatmari
Bhatarkata
Bamanhat
Barnakochandha
DHUBRI
Bamanbhandar
Gaidaha
Dasswachara
BRAHMAPUTRA RIVER

It will appear that out of a total of 23,34,487 Bighas of assessed and khas lands, 7,16,756 Bighas or 30 per cent was waste and uncultivated. The largest quantity of waste land, namely, 1,79,241 Bighas, lay in Tufangunj and the percentage of waste area was also the largest (50) in that Pargana. The best cleared tracts of the State were Dinhata and Lalbazar, where waste lands formed only 24 percent of the entire area. Tufangunj was the most wild tract.

At the time of the re-settlement the area covered by such lands was 6,44,991 Bighas as will appear from the following statement :— Extent of such land decreased at re-settlement.

NAME OF PARGANA.	Total of assessed and khas lands.	QUANTITY OF WASTE LAND.			Percentage of waste land on total land.
		Recorded as khas.	Incorporated with jotes.	Total.	
Mekhligunj ...	3,25,851	8,580	68,638	77,218	23
Mathabhanga ...	4,11,498	6,626	1,00,835	1,07,461	25
Lalbazar ...	3,16,530	5,613	53,831	59,444	19
Dinhata ...	3,94,649	11,599	66,865	78,464	20
Cooch Behar ...	5,67,113	27,323	1,46,764	1,74,087	30
Tufangunj ...	3,62,726	54,801	93,516	1,48,319	40
Total ...	23,78,367	1,14,542	5,30,449	6,44,991	27

In the course of the re-settlement operations the extent of waste lands ascertained was 6,44,991 Bighas, which formed 27 percent. of the total of assessed and khas lands in the State. There was thus a decrease of 71,765 Bighas of waste and uncultivated area at the time of the re-settlement. The extent of variation of these lands, as they existed at the two different times marked by the two settlements, will appear from the comparative statement given on the next page (page 506). Extent of variation.

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NAME OF PARGANA.	QUANTITY OF WASTE LAND AT THE FIRST SETTLEMENT.			QUANTITY OF WASTE LAND AT THE RE-SETTLEMENT.			VARIATION.			PERCENTAGE OF VARIATION.		
	Khas waste.	Uncultivated assessed lands.	Total.	Khas waste.	Uncultivated assessed lands.	Total.	Khas waste.	Uncultivated assessed lands.	Total.	Khas waste.	Uncultivated assessed lands.	Total.
Mekhligunj ..	11,685	82,349	94,034	8,580	68,638	77,218	−3,105	−13,711	−16,816	−26·4	−16·6	−17·9
Mathabhanga ...	13,151	94,968	1,08,119	6,626	1,00,835	1,07,461	−6,525	+5,867	−658	−49·6	+6·1	−·6
Lalbazar ...	19,557	55,068	74,625	5,613	53,831	59,444	−13,944	−1,237	−15,181	−71·3	−2·2	−20·3
Dinhata ...	12,762	77,012	89,774	11,599	66,865	78,464	−1,163	−10,147	−11,310	−9·1	−13·2	−12·6
Cooch Behar ...	34,374	1,36,589	1,70,963	27,323	1,46,764	1,74,087	−7,051	+10,175	+3,124	−20·5	+7·4	+2·8
Tufangunj ...	63,554	1,15,697	1,79,241	54,801	93,516	1,48,317	−8,743	−22,181	−30,924	−13·7	−18·1	−17·3
Total ..	1,55,073	5,61,683	7,16,756	1,14,542	5,30,449	6,44,991	−40,531	−31,234	−71,765	−26·1	−5·5	−10·0

Large extent of waste land inspite of the decrease.

Thus, although there has been a decrease of waste and uncultivated lands by 10 per cent. over the figures for the first settlement, yet there is still such a large area as 6,44,991 Bighas or about 333 square miles of land of this description in the country. This makes up about 25 per cent. of the total area of the State, and is a little larger than the extent of Pargana Cooch Behar which is the biggest of all Parganas. These lands are not, however, without their use. They are kept by the people for the purpose of grazing their cattle. They also supply them with fuel or fire wood without any cost. The demand for land is, however, daily increasing, and it can be fairly expected that before the expiration of the term of the settlement the greater part of the area now shewn uncleared will be brought under cultivation. But still waste and uncultivated tracts will not totally disappear. The rivers are cutting away large quantities of cultivated lands, and new *chars* are coming into existence every year in almost every part of the State. There is also to be taken into account the relinquishment of bad jotes, which is a very common occurrence. Thus, while on the one hand old wastes are expected to gradually disappear to a great extent, new ones will as surely come into existence, and make up the deficiency caused by the annual clearances. In this way some expanse of waste and uncleared areas will continue to cover the face of the country, and can never be fully expunged.

Mode of clearance of jungles.

The first step in the clearance of a jungly tract lies in the burning down of the grass and weeds, so far as that is practicable. This is generally effected in March when the leaves become dry, and facilitate the progress of the fire. In comparatively light grass jungles this is sufficient for effecting a clearance ; where, however, the bushes and thickets are heavy, and there is a large admixture of tree jungles, the axe has to be freely brought into play, the use of the *dao* being always necessary for removing the half burnt stalks of reed, *khagra*, *kasia* and the like. Sometimes, after the trees have been cut down, they are left on the ground to rot for one whole year. Fire is then brought into requisition once more to complete the work of destruction. The big stumps and roots are now dug out with the spade. The ground is then tilled, or rather scratched with the plough. In the first year of operation heavy tilling is neither necessary nor possible. The farmers make it a point to any how raise a crop on the clearance, both with the object of keeping down the jungle, and of making some income on the capital outlay ; and in this they are generally successful without a thorough ploughing, owing to the innate richness of the virgin soil. Large clearances are not effected all at once. At first a plot of open ground is made out according to the require

ment of each individual case. Clearance then goes on slowly, year after year, a small patch being added every year to the broken area.

Clearers of the jungle.

The *Meches* and *Garos* are very good "breakers" of jungles. They are encouraged by the farmers to settle on the tract to be cleared by the advance of paddy and money, and occasionally of cattle also. These people live in the jungle, and are accustomed to the hot air of the wastes, which is believed to be injurious to the health of men living in the open country. They go on effecting the clearance on behalf of their masters, and when the work is done they are often turned out of the land to make room for civilised tenants. Sometimes these wild tribes take out a lease directly from the State, and settle down as jotedars. But they are so shy and fond of roving, that they can very seldom be counted among the permanent settlers.

Pal system of settlement of jungles.

The practice of giving jungly lands to rayats for clearance free of rent for the first few years of the tenancy is in vogue in the country. This is called the *Pal* system. The term of the *Pal*, or remission of rent, generally varies from 1 to 5 years, according to the nature of the jungle to be dealt with. After the expiration of that period the land is brought under assessment.

It does not benefit the cultivator.

This system of granting *Pal* for the purpose of effecting a clearance of jungles is not always advantageous to the cultivator, as at first sight it appears to be. In this country assessment is made according to the nature of the soil, the rate for jungle land being two annas per Bigha, and that for the cultivated land of the of the lowest class, four annas and more. Now, when a man takes a certain quantity of *Laik patit* land, as the jungles are technically called, for a fixed term which is in no case less than ten years, he gets the whole at two annas a Bigha, if he begins to pay from the commencement. Under the *Pal* system assessment is made after the land has been brought under cultivation, and thus full rates for cultivated lands are charged as soon as the land is taxed. This means that after the first five years the liability on account of revenue becomes at least double of what it would otherwise have been. And as a settlement concluded at this stage may often be for a long term, the rayat practically becomes a loser. But a poor peasant has not the time for all this calculation, and is satisfied with the hope of a rent-free enjoyment to begin with.

The system is not encouraged by the State now a days.

CHAPTER IV.

LAND TENURES.

SECTION I.

Revenue-paying Estates and Under-tenures.

Revenue-paying estates called "Jotes."

The revenue-paying estates in the country are called "jotes", and the holders of these estates are called "jotedars." The 'jotedars' are thus, in one sense, analogous to 'zemindars' and 'talukdars' of British India, who pay the revenue direct to Government. A jote is heritable and transferrable. It is also divisible subject to the limits fixed by the laws of the State. It is liable to be summarily sold for its own arrears of revenue, although the law on the subject is more lenient than Act XI of 1859 of British India.

Of two kinds. *Mokarari* and *Sarasari*.

The jotes are of two kinds: *Mokarari* or permanently-settled, and *Sarasari* or ordinary or temporarily-settled. The revenue of the former is fixed in perpetuity, and no increase can be demanded by the State unless the quantity of land in possession of the holder be found to be in excess of the original grant. The revenue of the temporarily-settled jotes, on the other hand, can be increased after the expiration of the term of the Pattah or lease. The jote can be relinquished under the customary laws of the country after payment of the full revenue for the year within a stated time. It can be resumed by the State on the violation of any terms of the lease, or for a public purpose, without paying any compensation for the land. In the case of the Mokararis, however, a fair and equitable price is paid for the land. The jotedar has thus got a limited interest in what is called the "Sarasari" jote.

Huzuri jotes

In the Ijardari time there was a kind of jote called "Huzuri" jote, the holder of which paid the revenue direct to the State officers. He had no concern with the Ijardars, and had not to pay the Ijardari and Saranjami charges like the jotedars who paid their dues to the Ijardars. After the introduction of the Khas Tehsil system in 1872, all the jotedars came to pay the revenue immediately to the Malcutchery, and the term 'Huzuri jote' was dropped as unnecessary.

The Sarasari or temporarily-settled jotes are divided into two kinds—first, regular jotes; and secondly, occupancy holdings, which generally constitute the revenue-paying estates situated in the towns and bunders. These latter generally carry a higher rate of revenue, although even regular jotes lying within the above named places are not exempted from an enhanced assessment. These

holdings are not transferable without the sanction of the revenue authorities.

Kists for payment of revenue

The jotedars pay to the State a jama, or revenue, assessed according to fixed rates on measured and duly classified lands. The payment of revenue was formerly regulated under the following rules:—

1. When the amount of revenue was less than Rs. 10 a year, it was due to be paid in one instalment on the 15th Asvin.

2. When the amount exceeded Rs. 10 but did not exceed Rs. 30, it was payable in two equal instalments, that is, one-half on the 15th Asar, and the other half on the 15th Paus.

3. When it exceeded Rs. 30, it was to be paid in four instalments, that is, one-fourth on each of the following dates: The 15th Asar. The 15th Paus. The 15th Asvin. The 15th Chaitra.

Revision of the kists.

There were thus four kists for the payment of revenue. Of late these kists have been revised to make them conform more fully to the crops by the sale of which the cultivator finds his money to pay the revenue. They have been fixed at 3, by the Kist Act of 1898, falling due on the 15th Sravan, 15th Kartick, and 15th Falgun, respectively.

Intermediate holdings.

The holdings immediately under the Mokararidars are also called jotes. The payment of rent by these jotedars is regulated by the same rules as govern the payment of land revenue. Between the Mokararidar and the jotedar there are some intermediate tenure-holders, generally going by the name of Dar-mokararidar, Daradar-mokararidar, and so forth, whose status is analogous to that of the Dar-pattanidar &c., of Bengal. These intermediate tenures have permanently settled rents. They are, however, considered an emcumbrance created on the Mokarari, and lapse after it is sold for arrears of revenue. The under-tenures noticed below do not, on the other hand, share this last character of the intermediate Mokarari tenures, and remain binding on the purchaser even after the sale for arrears of revenue.

Under-tenures.

Under the jotes there are six grades of under-tenures. These, at least those of the higher grades, have been in existence from a very old time, and mark the great development of sub-infeudation which has prevailed in the country from before the first settlement. This system received an impetus from the abuses of the Ijardari system of collection of Land Revenue which was abolished

in 1872. In 1888, a law was passed to put a check to the evils of sub-infeudation which prohibited subletting of Chukanis and all holdings inferior to them.

The names of the under-tenures are given below :—

1. Chukani.
2. Dar-chukani.
3. Dara-dar-chukani.
4. Tashya-chukani.
5. Tali-chukani.
6. Tashya-tali-chukani.

Chukani is the general name for an under-tenure, and the prefix "Dar," "Dara-dar," etc, marks its place in the scale of subordinate tenancy.

Character of the holdings.

These tenures have occupancy rights. An undertenant was formerly liable to ejectment only on the violation of any terms of the lease. This character of these holdings has been emphasised by the sub-infeudation Act of 1889. Under the provisions of which an undertenure lapses if the decree for its rent remains unsatisfied after the 30th day of the order. These holdings are heritable and divisible, but could not be formerly transferred by sale as of right, without the consent of the superior land-lord, except under orders of the court. This disability has been removed by the Voluntary Sale of Under-tenures Act of 1892.

The under-tenants can now sell their title to the holdings by a deed duly registered, and on the payment of a fee to the land lord through the Revenue authorities. They can be relinquished to the superior land lords by payment of the full amount of rent three months before the expiration of the year after which the relinquishment is to take effect.

Bhagiyari tenure.

Besides the above, there is a kind of dependent tenure going by the name of "Bhagiyari Tenure", which means "a tenure belonging to a co-sharer." These are subdivided into two kinds: *Suddar*, meaning, equal or independent, and *Tali*, *Koljani*, or *Adhin*, meaning, dependent or subordinate. A *suddar bhagiyari* tenure is virtually a share of the tenure or undertenure of which it is a Bhagiyari, and an *Adhin*, *tali* or *Koljani* Bhagiyari is an undertenure subordinate to the tenure of which it is a Bhagiyari. The holder of a Bhagiyari tenure is called a *Bhagiyar*. These tenures were formerly very common in Mathabhanga. The origin of this class of tenures throws much light on the quiet and place loving character of the people of old days. It sometimes happened that a plot of land was jointly held by a number of persons not

belonging to the same family. When a settlement of the same was to be concluded the *Dewania*, or the most intelligent and pubile spirited member of the party, went forth to the officials and took out the lease in his own name, the other members preferring the safer position of remaining in the back ground. These latter could not, however, be deprived of the land and continued to enjoy it as before. They paid through the Dewania the revenue, or the rent, of the land in proportion to their interest in the same, or according to any special agreement which might have been arrived at with the Dewania.

Mr. Beckett thus notices this class of intermediate tenures in his final report on the settlement of Pargana Tufangunj :—

"There is a curious class of intermediate holders as it were, or sharers found throughout the State called "Suddar Bhagiar" or "Tullee" *alias* "Koljani" *alias* Audhin Bhagiar. A "Suddar Bhagiar" is to all intents and purposes a co-sharer. A "Suddar Bhagiar" of a jotedar for instance has the right, if he so wishes, to have his name entered in the pattah as a co-sharer and can at any time demand a Batwara. Many, however, prefer to remain as a sleeping partner as it were and to pay their revenue through the head of the family (or Dewania as he is called) without getting their names entered as a co-sharer in the official papers. They, however, almost invariably hold a deed from the "Dewania" asserting their Suddar Bhagiari rights. A "Tulley Bhagiar" on the contrary is a sort of undertenant, all the words "Tulley," "Audhin,"and "Koljani" signifying subordination. A "Tully Bhagiar" of a jotedar, for instance, takes a pattah from his jotedar and gives him a Kabuliat agreeing to pay him so much of the revenue of the jote in a lump sum as they may mutually agree to, and he can not take any profits from him over and above the sum originally agreed on, as he can in the case of his undertenant the Chukanidar. The "Tully Bhagiar" has no right to demand a Batwara and must pay his share of the revenue, whatever it is, through his jotedar. If, however, there is any special provision in the pattah and Kabuliat exchanged between the parties contrary to the above they are bound by such proviso. A "Tully Bhagiar" in the event of his superior losing his right also loses whatever rights he may have ; he follows the fortune of his superior and must abide by the result. Chukanidars and Darchukanidars may have Bhagiars of both classes and they often have them, the practice is not confined only to the jotedars."

Sub-letting of under-tenures.

Formerly, almost every class of under tenant could sublet his lands, either verbally or by a written instrument, and thus subinfeudation was carried to an undue excess. In 1888, subletting

of lands except by a jotedar, and that only in chukani right, was put down by legislation [9] Verbal contracts of payment of rent were also prohibited in that year.

In the course of the first settlement the *Adhiyars* were classified under the head of under-tenants. These persons cultivate for the farmer and get half the produce as the value of their labour. They generally live upon the landlords' premises, or on lands in his khas possession, and pay no rent for the same. Sometimes they cultivate the land with the plough and cattle lent by the *Grihi*, as the landlord iscalled ; but more generally they have their own implements of agriculture. Sometimes a man possessing some land of his own also cultivates another's land on the Adhiyari system. In that case they are called *Utungkara* rayats, the general appellation for both these classes of cultivators being "Praja." Thus although the term "Praja" ordinarily means an under-tenant, a Cooch Behari will not understand by it any thing more than a farm-labourer. These men do not keep themselves always confined to the same plot or plots of land, but move from one land to another, as they may find lucrative, or as the *Grihi* may direct. Thus, they are more hired labourers than under-tenants, and were not recorded as undertenants during the re-settlement operations.

The payment of rent by the under-tenants was formerly regulated under a fixed rule in 8 instalments, but in varying proportions, as shewn below :—

On the 30th Byshak ...	...	$\frac{1}{8}$th of the rent.
ditto „ Jaistha ...	...	Ditto
ditto „ Ashar ...	...	$\frac{1}{12}$th ditto
ditto 20th Bhadra ...	...	$\frac{1}{6}$th ditto
ditto 30th Asvin ...	...	$\frac{1}{12}$th ditto
ditto 20th Agrahayan	...	$\frac{1}{6}$th ditto
ditto 30th Pous ...	...	$\frac{1}{12}$th ditto
ditto 20th Falgun ...	...	$\frac{1}{6}$th ditto

These instalments were not arbitrary as at first sight they might appear to be. They had a connection with the crops raised in different seasons of the year, and were so fixed as to be fully able to meet the landlords' demand for a proportionate share of the revenue due at each of the four Kists fixed for the payment of State revenue.

With the revision of the Revenue kists, the kists for the under-tenants were also modified, as shewn below :—

The 30th Jaistha ...	...	$\frac{3}{16}$ of the entire rent.
ditto Ashar ...	...	Ditto ditto
ditto Asvin ...	...	$\frac{5}{16}$ ditto ditto
ditto Magh ...	...	Ditto ditto

[9] The Sub-infeudation Act of 1888.

Over and above the fixed rent the landlords realise an additional amount from the rayats in the shape of interest. Generally the rayats do not pay exactly in time, or in full liquidation of the arrears, and furnish to their landlords a loop hole for charging interest on what remains unpaid on the Kist day. The custom is to charge a fixed amount annually which does not exceed two months' rent, and is ordinarily equal to one twelfth of the rental. This is known as the *Jatshud.* [10] This imposition by the landlords, though not regarded as illegal, is not allowed by the law courts of the State, unless interest is actually due.

The Revenue-paying estates of Cooch Behar are, as already noticed, mostly composed of Sarasari or temporarily-settled jotes. The number of Mokarari or permanently-settled estates is small, and covers a small fraction of the assessed area. There are 18,836 estates of the first description, and 16 of the second. A detailed notice of these, as well as of the under-tenures comprised within the temporarily-settled estates, is given below.

MOKARARI MEHALS.

To begin with, the number of Mokarari mehals or permanently-settled estates in the country is 16, covering an area of about 57,560 Bighas, with an annual revenue of Rs. 7,188. Particulars regarding them are given below:—

Name of Pargana.	Number of Mokarari mehals.	Area covered by these mehals.	Average area of a Mokarari.	Amount of revenue fixed in perpetuity on the mehals.	Average revenue charged on each Bigha of Mokarari.
		B. K. D.	B. K. D.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Mekhligunj ...	2	41,554 8 11	20.777 4 6	4572 9 9	0 1 9
Pathabhanga ...	3	7,517 6 4	2,505 15 8	1230 15 10	0 2 8
Lalbazar ...	2	691 4 18	345 12 9	143 9 4	0 3 4
Dinhata ...	4	2.730 11 9	642 12 17	696 2 6	0 4 ½
Cooch Behar ...	5	5.066 6 0	1,013 5 4	544 11 6	0 1 8
Tufanguni ...	...	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total ...	16	57.559 17 2	3.596 4 15	7,188 0 11	0 2 0

[10] Probably a corrupted form of "Zaid-Sud", from Arabic "Zaid," meaning "in excess," and Persian "Sud," meaning "interest"; when conjoined they mean "added interest."

It will appear that the largest area under Mokarari mehals lies in Pargana Mekhligunj, which belongs to Babu Tarini Charan Chakravarti of the town, whose father's uncle the late Chandi Charan Chakravarti received the grant in 1225 B.E. from Maharaja Harendra Narayan. There is no Mokarari jote in Tufangunj. The average area of a Mokarari mehal is 3,596 Bighas.

Mokararis are lightly assessed.

It would appear from the last column of the statement given above that the rent was fixed in perpetuity in Mekhligunj and Cooch Behar at an average rate of about one anna and nine pies per Bigha; in Lalbazar at three annas and four pies; in Dinhata at four annas and one-half pies; and in Mathabhanga at five annas and eight pies. For the whole State the rate was two annas on an average. Generally speaking, the Mokarari mehals possess very good soil for which, however, the State is now getting almost the lowest rate applicable to the temporary-settled lands. As will appear in a subsequent part of this report, every Bigha of the ordinary jotes now brings in a revenue amounting to nine annas and seven pies. These Mokarari mehals therefore are assessed at seven annas and seven pies less per Bigha, and, but for the fact of their rent having been fixed in perpetuity, could bring in to the State Rs. 27,281 more than what they now do.

TEMPORARILY-SETTLED JOTES.

Number of revenue-paying estates.

The following table compares the number of jotes existing at the first settlement with the number at the re-settlement:—

NAME OF PARGANA.	Number of jotes existing at the time of the first settlement.	Number of jotes found at the time of the re-settlement.	Increase in the number of jotes at the time of the re-settlement.	Percentage of the increase.
Mekhligunj ...	1,783	2,321	538	30·2
Mathabhanga ...	2,276	2,529	253	11·1
Lalbazar ...	2,510	2,604	94	3·7
Dinhata ...	3,720	3,980	260	7·0
Cooch Behar ...	4,851	5,337	486	9·3
Tufangunj ...	1,219	2,065	846	58·4
Total ...	16,359	18,836[11]	2,477	14·1

[11] The existing number is above 22,000.

Increase of the number of jotes.

It will be observed that the number of jotes rose from 16,359 at the time of the first settlement to 18,836 at the time of the re-settlement. The increase was 2,477, and was at the rate of 14·1 per cent. This increase was the largest in Tufangunj where the percentage came up to 58·4; Mekhligunj ranked second with an increase of 538 jotes, giving 30·2 per cent; Lalbazar had the smallest increase of 94 jotes or 3·7 per cent. Cooch Behar with an increase of 9 per cent. was better off than Dinhata, which attained 7 per cent., and both of them ranked below Mathabhanga which had an increase of 11 per cent.

Decrease of the area.

But although the number of jotes increased, there was no proportionate extension of the area under settlement. On the other hand the extent of the assessed area showed a decrease at the time of re-settlement as already noticed in a previous Chapter. The fact is that in the course of the two decades which followed the first settlement small jotes came into existence by the settlement of small patches of khas or Payasthi lands, which served to greatly increase the number of the jotes. As the extent of the newly settled jotes was small in each case there was no proportionate increase of the area under settlement. Some big jotes had been resumed and settled in fragments with the undertenants, which also gave rise to several jotes in the place of the old one, without however, altering the old assessed area. Some jotes had also been split up by partition. These causes led to the large increase in the number of jotes on the figures of the first settlement.

This fact will be more clear from an examination of the following statement which shows the average area of a jote at each of the two settlements :—

NAME OF PARGANA.	AVERAGE AREA OF A JOTE AT THE FIRST SETTLEMENT.			AVERAGE AREA OF A JOTE AT THE TIME OF RE-SETTLEMENT.			VARIATION IN THE AVERAGE AREA OF A JOTE.	
	Total of assessed land.	Number of jotes.	Average area of a jote.	Total of assessed land.	Number of jotes.	Average area of a jote.	In the number of joce.	In the average area of a jote.
	Bighas.		Bighas.	Bighas.		Bighas.		Bighas.
Mekhligunj	2,99,789	1,783	168·2	2,97,265	2,321	128·1	+ 538	−40·1
Mathabhanga ..	3,89,460	2,276	171·1	3,82,172	2,529	151·1	+ 253	−20·0
Lalbazar	2,93,584	2,510	116·9	2,87,802	2,604	110·5	+ 94	−6·4
Dinhata	3,68,101	3,720	98·9	3,61,599	3,980	90·6	+ 260	−8·3
Cooch Behar ..	5,24,918	4,851	106·2	5,08,614	5,337	90·5	+ 486	−15·7
Tufangunj	2,99,768	1,219	239·3	2,86,244	2,065	138·6	+ 846	−100·7
Total ..	21,65,620	16,359	132·4	21,23,696	18,836	112·8	+2477	−19·6

Largest decrease in Tufangunj and smallest in Lal bazar.

It will be seen from the above that at the time of the first settlement the average area of a jote was 132·4 Bighas. For reasons already stated, it came down to 112·8 Bighas at the time of the re-settlement, showing a decrease of 19·6 Bighas per jote on an average. Formerly, the average extent of a jote was the largest in Tufangunj, where it was 239·3 Bighas, and the smallest in Dinhata, which had 98·9 Bighas for each jote. Mathabhanga ranked second with 171 Bighas; Mekhligunj stood third with 168·2 Bighas, distantly followed by Lalbazar with 116·9 Bighas; and Cooch Behar, which was only above Dinhata, had 106·2 Bighas per jote. Large settlements were made in Tufangunj, as evidenced by the large increase in the number of jotes noticed above, during the active period of systematic government that followed, and the result was that the average area of a jote here came down to 138·6 Bighas at re-settlement showing a decrease of 100·7. In the meantime the number of settlements made in Mathabhanga was not large, and the area of the jote did not consequently much decrease, although it fell to 151·11 Bighas. The average area of a jote is now therefore the largest in that Pargana. In all other Pargans there was a proportionate decrease in the extent of the jote and the order of gradation was not altered anywhere except in Cooch Behar, which from its place of the last but one, came to be the last at the time of the re-settlement. The average area of a jote is now the smallest in Dinhata and Cooch Behar, in each of which it is about 90½ Bighas in extent.

Average area of a jote.

There are thus at present 17 jotes to the square mile, taking the State as a whole. As for the different Parganas, there are 13 jotes to a square mile in Mathabhanga, 14 in Tufangunj, 15 in Mekhligunj, 17 in Lalbazar and 21 in Dinhata and Cooch Behar.

Land under khas possession of jotedar

Although the area of a jote is on an average about 112 Bighas, the quantity of land directly held by the jotedar and not sublet to undertenants is only a little above 30 Bighas. At the time of the first settlement it was larger, having been 37·2 Bighas on an average. Thus, in the course of 22 years that followed the first settlement there has been a decrease of the area amounting to about 7 Bighas, or about 18 per cent.

The following comparative statement gives the details on this subject for the different Parganas:—

Name of Pargana.	QUANTITY OF LAND HELD DIRECTLY BY THE JOTEDAR AT THE TIME OF THE FIRST SETTLEMENT.			QUANTITY OF LAND HELD DIRECTLY BY THE JOTEDAR AT THE TIME OF RE-SETTLEMENT.			Variation in each jote since the first settlement.	Percentage of variation.
	Number of jotedars.	Total of land held directly by the jotedars.	Quantity of land in the possession of each.	Number of jotedars.	Total of land held directly by them.	Quantity of land in the possession of each.		
		Bighas.	Bighas.		Bighas.	Bighas.	Bighas.	
Mekhligunj ...	1,783	1,15,786	64·7	2,321	89,011	38·4	–26·3	–42
Mathabhanga ...	2,276	96,832	42·5	2,529	70,006	27·6	–14·9	–36
Lalbazar ...	2,510	89,350	35·5	2,604	73,659	28·2	–7·3	–20
Dinhata ...	3,720	64,430	17·3	3,980	61,651	16·1	–1·2	–6
Cooch Behar ...	4,851	1,45,740	30·1	5,337	1,55,633	29·1	–1·0	–3
Tufangunj ...	1,219	96,110	78·8	2,065	1,20,140	58·1	–20·7	–26
Total ...	16,359	6,08,248	37·2	18,836	5,70,100	30·2	–7·0	–19

It would appear from the above that at the first settlement the quantity of land held directly by the jotedars was 6,08,248 Bighas, whereas at the time of the re-settlement it came down to 5,70,100 Bighas, showing a decrease of 38,148 Bighas. A portion of this decrease is attributable to the general decrease of assessed lands, and the remainder to the increase of sub-infeudation, as will fully appear later on. It will be further noticed that although the quantity of land in the direct possession of the jotedars fell off every where, the decrease was marked in Mekhligunj, Mathabhanga and Tufangunj, where it amounted to 42, 36 and 20 per cent., respectively. It was the smallest in Cooch Behar which showed a decrease of 3 per cent only.

The table given below shows what portion of every hundred Bighas of assessed land the jotedar held in his khas possession at the time of the re-settlement and what the variation of this area was with that of the first settlement :—

NAME OF PARGANA.	Percentage of the land held in khas possession by the jotedars on the total of the assessed land.		
	At the first settlement.	At the re-settlement.	Variation.
Mekhligunj	38	29	−9
Mathabhanga	24	18	−6
Lalbazar	30	25	−5
Dinhata	17	17	0
Cooch Behar	27	30	+3
Tufangunj	33	41	+8
Total ...	28	26	−2

Increase sub-infeudation.

At the time of the first settlement, of every hundred Bighas of assessed land the jotedar, on an average, held 28 Bighas in their khas possession, the remaining 72 Bighas having been sublet. At the re-settlement the extent of subletting rose still higher, and only 26 Bighas of land in every hundred came to be directly held by the jotedars. In two out of the six Parganas, namely, Cooch Behar and Tufangunj, the area under khas possession of the jotedar increased at the re-settlement ; in Dinhata there was no change; and in the remaining three, it decreased. It was the smallest, and the corresponding extent of sub-infeudation the largest, in Dinhata, both at the first and the re-settlement, and Mathabhanga came next. At the first settlement Cooch Behar ranked third; at the re-settlement Lalbazar came to occupy this place. The largest proportion under khas possession was recorded in Mekhligunj at the former; but at the latter Tufangunj came to secure that place. Cooch Behar and Tufangunj showed an increase of 3 and 8 per cent, respectively, of the land under khas possession on the figures of the first settlement.

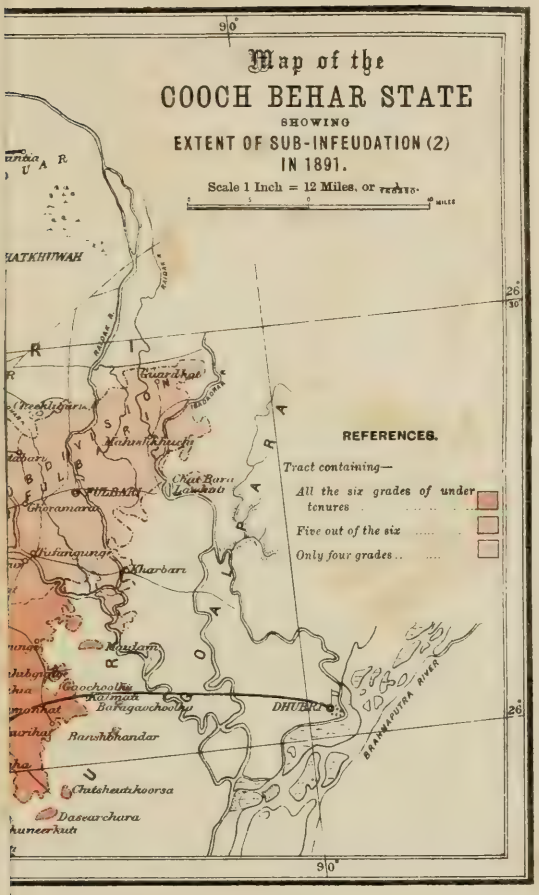
NUMBER OF THE UNDER-TENURES.

The following statement shows the number of the under-tenures existing at the time of the first settlement:—

Name of Pargana.	Chukani.	Dar-chukani.	Daradar-chukani.	Tasya-chukani.	Tali-chukani.	Tasya-tali-chukani.	Total.	Average No. of under tenures to one jote.
Mekhligunj ..	4,590	2,082	218	84	.....	.....	6,974	4
Mathabhanga..	4,807	3,404	808	71	.....	.....	9,180	4
Lalbazar ..	4,573	2,554	443	40	4	.....	7,614	3
Dinhata ...	10,177	9,947	2,963	329	39	4	23,459	6
Cooch Behar ...	8,710	5,217	827	66	1	.....	14,821	3
Tufangunj ..	2,259	1,539	378	22	1	.....	4,199	4
Total ..	35,206	24,743	5,637	612	45	4	66,247	4

At the time of the re-settlement the number stood thus :—

Name of Pargana.	Chukani.	Dar-chukani.	Daradar-chukani.	Tasya-chukani.	Tali-chukani.	Tasya-tali-chukani.	Total.	Average No. of under tenures to one jote.
Mekhligunj ..	6,291	2,899	692	103	13	3	10,001	4
Mathabhanga..	5,820	5,061	2,020	412	73	10	13,396	5
Lalbazar ..	5,106	3,146	724	71	8	.....	9,055	3
Dinhata ...	11,717	12,419	5,160	1,121	128	8	30,553	8
Cooch Behar ..	10,668	6,906	1,981	297	6	.....	19,858	4
Tufangunj ...	3,937	2,203	559	94	.....	.....	6,793	4
Total ..	43,539	32,634	11,136	2,098	228	21	89,656	5


Map of the
COOCH BEHAR STATE
SHOWING
EXTENT OF SUB-INFEUDATION (2)
IN 1891.
Scale 1 Inch = 12 Miles, or
REFERENCES.
Tract containing—
All the six grades of under tenures
Five out of the six
Only four grades
90°
26° 30'
26°
BRAHMAPUTRA RIVER
DHUBRI
Goorkhat
Mahishkuchi
Chat Bari
Lankat
PITABARI
Gharamara
Mathanguri
Marbari
Maylam
Gaochoalkie
Kalmati
Bairagurchalka
Ranishchandar
Chatsheutkoorsa
Dasearchara
Khuneerkuti
BHUTIA DOOARS
PATKHUWAH



To face page 520.

The variation in the number since the first settlement was therefore as follows:— Variation in number.

NAME OF PARGANA.	Chukani	Dar-Chukani.	Dara-dar Chukani.	Tasya-Chukani.	Tali-Chukani.	Tasya-tali-Chukani.	Total.
Mekhligunj ...	+1,701	+ 817	+ 474	+ 19	+ 13	+ 3	+ 3,027
Mathabhanga	+ 923	+1,657	+1,212	+ 341	+ 73	+ 10	+ 4,216
Lalbazar ...	+ 533	+ 592	+ 281	+ 31	+ 4	.....	+ 1,441
Dinhata ...	+1,540	+2,472	+2,197	+ 792	+ 89	+ 4	+ 7,094
Cooch Behar...	+1,958	+1,689	+1,154	+ 231	+ 5	.....	+ 5,037
Tufangunj ...	+1,678	+ 664	+ 181	+ 72	− 1	.....	+ 2,594
Total ...	+8,333	+7,891	+5,499	+1,486	+ 183	+ 17	+23,409

And the percentage of the variation was as shewn below:— Percentage of variation.

Name of Pargana.	Chukani.	Dar-Chukani.	Daradar-Chukani.	Tasya-Chukani.	Tali-Chukani.	Tasya-tali-Chukani.	Total.
Mekhligunj ...	+37·0	+39·0	+217·0	+ 22·0	.....	.....	+ 43
Mathabhanga	+19·0	+49·0	+150·0	+480·0	.....	.....	+ 46
Lalbazar ...	+11·5	+23·2	+63·5	+ 32·5	+100·0	.....	+ 19
Dinhata ...	+15·0	+24·7	+74·4	+240·7	+253·8	+100·0	+ 28
Cooch Behar	+22·4	+32·3	+139·5	+350·0	+500·0	.....	+ 34
Tufangunj ...	+74·0	+43·1	+47·8	+320·0	−100·0	.....	+ 59
Total ...	+23·7	+31·9	+97·7	+239·8	+406·6	+425·0	+ 35·1

The total number of under-tenures at the time of the first settlement was 66,247. Of this 35,206 were Chukanis, 5,637 Dar-chukanis, 5,637 Dara-dar-chukanis, 612 Tasya-chukanis, 45 Tali-chukanis, and 4 Tasya-tali-chukanis. All the six grades of under-tenures existed in Dinhata alone, and the fifth grade in Lalbazar, Cooch Behar and Tufangunj also, although the number was very small. The last two grades of under-tenures numbered only 49 and may be left out of account as not practically much affecting the result of calculation. It will then be seen that of the total number of under-tenures the Chukanis formed 53 per cent or a little above a half; the Dur-chukanis 37 per cent, or a little above a third; and the Dara-dar-chukanis and the Tasya-chukanis, conjointly 10 per cent or a tenth. Under-tenures at first settlement

The variation in the number since the first settlement was therefore as follows:— Variation in number.

NAME OF PARGANA.	Chukani	Dar-Chukani.	Dara-dar Chukani.	Tasya-Chukani.	Tali-Chukani.	Tasya-tali-Chukani.	Total.
Mekhligunj ...	+1,701	+ 817	+ 474	+ 19	+ 13	+ 3	+ 3,027
Mathabhanga	+ 923	+1,657	+1,212	+ 341	+ 73	+ 10	+ 4,216
Lalbazar ...	+ 533	+ 592	+ 281	+ 31	+ 4	.....	+ 1,441
Dinhata ...	+1,540	+2,472	+2,197	+ 792	+ 89	+ 4	+ 7,094
Cooch Behar...	+1,958	+1,689	+1,154	+ 231	+ 5	.....	+ 5,037
Tufangunj ...	+1,678	+ 664	+ 181	+ 72	− 1	.....	+ 2,594
Total ...	+8,333	+7,891	+5,499	+1,486	+ 183	+ 17	+23,409

And the percentage of the variation was as shewn below:— Percentage of variation.

Name of Pargana.	Chukani.	Dar-Chukani.	Daradar-Chukani.	Tasya-Chukani.	Tali-Chukani.	Tasya-tali-Chukani.	Total.
Mekhligunj ...	+37·0	+39·0	+217·0	+ 22·0	.....	.....	+ 43
Mathabhanga	+19·0	+49·0	+150·0	+480·0	.....	.....	+ 46
Lalbazar ...	+11·5	+23·2	+63·5	+ 32·5	+100·0	.....	+ 19
Dinhata ...	+15·0	+24·7	+74·4	+240·7	+253·8	+100·0	+ 28
Cooch Behar	+22·4	+32·3	+139·5	+350·0	+500·0	.....	+ 34
Tufangunj ...	+74·0	+43·1	+47·8	+320·0	−100·0	.....	+ 59
Total ...	+23·7	+31·9	+97·7	+239·8	+406·6	+425·0	+ 35·1

The total number of under-tenures at the time of the first settlement was 66,247. Of this 35,206 were Chukanis, 5,637 Dar-chukanis, 5,637 Dara-dar-chukanis, 612 Tasya-chukanis, 45 Tali-chukanis, and 4 Tasya-tali-chukanis. All the six grades of under-tenures existed in Dinhata alone, and the fifth grade in Lalbazar, Cooch Behar and Tufangunj also, although the number was very small. The last two grades of under-tenures numbered only 49 and may be left out of account as not practically much affecting the result of calculation. It will then be seen that of the total number of under-tenures the Chukanis formed 53 per cent or a little above a half; the Dur-chukanis 37 per cent, or a little above a third; and the Dara-dar-chukanis and the Tasya-chukanis, conjointly 10 per cent or a tenth. Under-tenures at first settlement

Their number to each jote.

It has already been noticed that the jotes numbered 16,359 at the time of the first settlement. There were thus about 4 under-tenures to one jote. Of these four, two were on an average Chukanis, one and a half Dar-Chukanis, and the remaining one-half represented the Dara-dar-Chukanis and Tasya-Chukanis. But while subletting occurred in every jote on an average, the case was different with the under-tenures. For instance, every three Chukanis had two Dar-Chukanis between them, while every fifth Dar-Chukani and Dara-dar-Chukani were sublet. Sub-infeudation below the grade of Tasya-chukani was rare.

Their distribution among Parganas.

The largest proportion of under-tenures as compared with the number of jotes was in Dinhata, where there were six under-tenures to every jote, and the smallest in Lalbazar and Cooch Behar, where a jote had only three under-tenures on an average. In all other Parganas there were four under-tenures to one jote.

The largest number of undertenures existed in Dinhata where it was 23,459 ; Cooch Behar came next with 14,821, followed by Mathabhanga with 9,180 ; Lalbazar had 7,614 and ranked third, and Mekhligunj stood fifth, with 6,974. Tufangunj had the smallest number of under-tenures which was only 4,199.

Percentage of different grades.

The proportion of the different grades of under-tenures on their total number will appear from the figures given below :—

NAME OF PARGANA.	PERCENTAGE OF EACH GRADE OF UNDER-TENURE ON THE TOTAL NUMBER OF UNDER-TENURES.			
	Chukani.	Dar. Chukani.	Dar-a-dar-Chukani.	Tasya-Chukani and under.
Mekhligunj	65	30	4	1
Mathabhanga	53	37	9	1
Lalbazar	60	33	6	1
Dinhata	44	42	13	1
Cooch Behar	59	35	5	1
Tufangunj	54	36	9	1
Total ...	54	38	8	1

It will be seen that Mekhligunj had the largest percentage of Chukanis (65 percent) and Dinhata of Darchukanis and Dara-dar Chukanis (42 and 13 percent). The proportion of under-tenures below Dara-dar-chukanis was the same everywhere, being about 1 percent for the three conjointly.

Sub-infeudation of number of Chukanis.

As for the extent of sub-infeudation, the Chukanis were sublet 97 percent in Dinhata, 69 percent in Mathabhanga, 67 percent in Tufangunj, 59 percent in Cooch Behar, 56 per cent in Lalbazar, and 45 per cent in Mekhligunj. Thus, with the exception of Mekhligunj, more than half the number of Chukanis were leased out everywhere, the maximum having been reached in Dinhata, where almost every Chukani was sublet.

Of Dar-chukanis and under.

The Dar-chukanis were sublet to the extent of 30 percent in Dinhata, 24 percent in Mathabhanga and Tufangunj, 18 per cent in Lalbazar, 15 percent in Cooch Behar, and 10 percent in Mekhligunj. Thus, in respect of both these undertenures Dinhata showed the greatest and Mekhligunj the smallest sub-infeudation. As for the subletting of undertenures of lower grades, Mekhligunj attained 38 per cent, Dinhata 12, Lalbazar 10, Mathabhanga 9, Cooch Behar 8, and Tufangunj 6 per cent. But as the number of these under-tenures was small, only 661 in all, the percentage, even where it was high, did not matter much.

Number of under-tenures at re-settlement.

The total number of under-tenures recorded at the time of the re-settlement of the State was 89,656 showing an increase of 23,409 or 34·7 percent on the figures of the first settlement. Of this number 43,539 were Chukanis; 32,634 Dar-chukanis; 11,136 Dara-dur-chukanis; 2,098 Tasya-chukanies; 228 Tali-chukanis and 21 Tasya-tali-chukanis. The increase thus amounted to 8,333, 7,891, 5,499, 1,486, 183 and 17, or 22, 27, 275, 407 and 425 percent, respectively. The first settlement papers recorded the six grades of under-tenures in Dinhata alone ; at the time of re-settlement all the six grades were found in existence in Mathabhanga and Mekligunj also, while Lalbazar, Cooch Behar and Tufangunj showed little or no change in this respect.

Explanation of the large increase.

This fact is suspicious, and throws doubt on the correct recording of rights in Mekhligunj and Mathabhanga in the course of the first settlement operations. It is a fact that during the period intervening between these two settlements every part of the State made considerable progress and the demand for land increased more or less everywhere. It cannot, therefore, be said that the concomitant evil of the spread of sub-infeudation found its way to only two of the Parganas and spared the rest. It has already been noticed in a foregoing Chapter how the jotedars of Mekhligunj

tried in the course of the re-settlement operations to suppress the titles of their undertenants, and how the Settlement Officer had to strive hard to find out and correctly record the existing rights. It is, therefore, very probable that tenants of the lowest scales went without recognition at the time of the first settlement, owing to misrepresentations wilfully made by the landlords. The large increase of undertenures of all descriptions at the time of the re-settlement seems also to be partly due to a similar reason.

Under-tenures to each jote.

The number of under-tenures recorded at the time of the re-settlement was about five times the number of jotes existing at that time, against four times the number in the course of the first settlement. There was thus at the last settlement five under-tenures to every jote showing an increase of one under-tenure for each jote. This increase occurred only in Mathabhanga and Dinhata, where every jote had five and eight under-tenures, respectivly, showing an increase of one in the former, and of two in the latter. In the remaining four Parganas the number remained unchanged. This means that in all the Parganas except Mathabhanga and Dinhata the increase in the number of jotes generally kept pace with that in the number of under-tenures, and that in the two above named Parganas the growth of the under-tenures was more rapid by 25 and 33 percent, respectively.

Distribution of under-tenures.

The largest increase in the number of under-tenures took place in Dinhata, where their total number was also the largest, and the smallest in Lalbazar. In round numbers Dinhata had an increase of 7,000, Cooch Behar 5,000, Mathabhanga 4,000, Mekhligunj 3,000, Tufangunj 2,500 and Lalbazar 1,000. The percentage of increase was, however, the largest in Tufangunj and smallest in Lalbazar. The proportion was 60 percent in Tufangunj, 46 in Mathabhanga, 43 in Mekhligunj, 36 in Cooch Behar, 28 in Dinhata, and 19 in Lalbazar, with an average of 34 percent for the whole State. Thus in Mekhligunj, Mathabhanga, Cooch Behar, and Tufangunj the increase was far above the average, while in Lalbazar and Dinhata only, it was below that figure.

The largest number of under-tenures of all descriptions with the exception of the last (Tasya-tali-chukani) was recorded in Dinhata. Next came Cooch Behar ; but Mathabhanga contained more Dar-chukanis and Dara-dar-chukanis than that Pargana. Tufangunj had the smallest number of under-tenures of almost every grade.

The proportion of the number of each grade of under-tenures to the total number, however, showed a different result as noted below :—

NAME OF PARGANA.	PERCENTAGE OF EACH GRADE OF UNDER-TENURES ON THE TOTAL NUMBER.			
	Chukani.	Dar-Chukani.	Dara-dar-Chukani.	Tasya Chukani and others.
Mekhligunj	62	29	8	1
Mathabhanga	43	38	16	3
Lalbazar	56	35	8	1
Dinhata	38	41	17	4
Cooch Behar...	52	35	9	1
Tufangunj	57	33	9	1
Total ...	49	37	12	2

Percentage of each grade as compared with first settlement

It will be seen from the above table that Mekhligunj had the largest percentage of Chukanis (62 percent), and Dinhata of Dar-chukanis and Dara-dar-chukanis (41 and 17 per cent respectively). When compared with the figures of the first settlement this percentage discloses an important fact. It shows, as will clearly appear from a reference to the comparative statement given below, that although the number of Chukanis increased, its proportion to the total of under-tenures visibly decreased everywhere, except in Tufangunj, which showed some increase on this head ; and that while the increase in the percentage of Dar-chukanis was but slight, that of Dara-dar-chukanis was marked. In Mathabhanga increase under the last two grades of under-tenures was also prominent.

Name of Pargana.	Percentage of each grade of under-tenures on the total number.								Variation in the Percentage.			
	First Settlement.				Re-settlement.							
	Chukani.	Dar-chukani	Dara-dar chukani.	Others.	Chukani.	Dar-chukani	Dara-dar Chukani.	Others.	Chukani.	Dar-chukani	Dara-dar Chukani,	Others.
Mekhligunj	65	30	4	1	62	29	8	1	−3	+1	+4	0
Mathabhanga ...	53	37	9	1	43	38	16	3	−10	+1	+7	+2
Lalbazar	60	33	6	1	56	35	8	1	−4	+2	+2	0
Dinhata	44	42	13	1	38	41	17	4	−6	−1	−4	+3
Cooch Behar	58	35	5	1	55	35	9	1	−3	·0	+4	0
Tufangunj	54	36	9	1	57	33	9	1	+3	−3	0	0
Total	54	38	8	1	49	37	12	2	−5	0	+4	+1

Proportion of the number sublet at re-settlement.

As for the extent of sub-infeudation as marked by the re-settlement operations, it was 74 percent in the case of Chukanis, 34 for Dar-Chukanis, and 21 for under-tenures of lower grades. This proportion varied in the different Parganas. The Chukanis were sublet 106 percent in Dinhata, 87 percent in Mathabhanga, 64 percent in Cooch Behar, 61 percent in Lalbazar, 56 percent in Tufangunj and 46 per cent in Mekhligunj. Thus, more than 50 per cent. of the Chukanis was sublet everywhere except Mekhligunj, in Dinhata the percentage being so high as 106, implying that in that Pargana there was on an average more than one Dar-chukani for every Chukani. The Dar-chukanis were leased out to the exent of more than 22 per cent in every Pargana. The subletting was the highest in Dinhata where it was 41 per cent, and the lowest in Lalbazar, where it was 23. Mathabhanga had 39 per cent, and Cooch Behar 29. Mekhligunj and Tufangunj were equal in this respect, with 25 per cent each. As for the under-tenures of still lower grades, Mathabhanga and Dinhata showed sub-infeudation up to 24 per cent, Mekhligunj, Cooch Behar and Tufangunj, within 15 and 20 per cent, and Lalbazar 11 per cent. In short, the extent of sub-infeudation was the largest in Dinhata in the case of every grade of under-tenure.

The following table compares the extents of sub-infeudation as they existed at the periods marked by the two settlements:—

NAME OF PARGANA.	Percentage of the number of under-tenures of each grade sublet on the total number.						Variation in the percentage.		
	First settlement.			*Re-settlement.*					
	Chukani.	Dar-chukani	Dara-dar chukani and under.	Chukani.	Dar-chukani.	Dara-dar chukani and under.	Chukani.	Dar-chukani.	Dara-dar chukani and under.
Mekligunj ...	45	10	38	46	25	18	+1	+15	−20
Mathabhanga ...	69	24	9	87	39	24	+17	+15	+15
Lalbazar ...	66	18	10	61	23	11	+5	+5	+1
Dinhata ...	97	30	12	106	42	24	+9	+12	+12
Cooch Behar ...	59	15	8	64	29	15	+5	+14	+7
Tufangunj ...	57	24	6	56	25	17	−1	+1	+11
Total ...	70	22	12	74	34	21	+4	+12	+9

Sub-infeudation of the number increased.

It will be observed that except in Tufangunj which had a decrease of 1 per cent, the extent of sub-infeudation of Chukanis rose everywhere, and varied from 1 to 17 per cent, with an average of 4 per cent for the whole State. The highest increase took place in Mathabhanga (17 percent), and the smallest in Mekligunj (1 percent). Dinhata had an increase of 9 percent and Cooch Behar and Lalbazar 5 percent each. In the case of Dar-chukanis the increase was the largest in Mekhligunj and Mathabhanga, each of which attained 15 percent, and the smallest in Tufangunj where it was only 1 percent. Cooch Behar and Dinhata showed an increase of 14 and 12 percent, respectively, and Lalbazar 5 percent. The average for the whole State was 12 percent. Further sub-ienfudation declined in Mekhligunj only. It showed a marked progress in four of the remaining five Parganas, of which only Lalbazar had a nominal increase of 1 percent. The average for the whole State was 9 percent. The net result is an increase of sub-infeudation of every grade of the under-tenures, varying from 4 to 12 percent.

AREA COVERED BY THE UNDER-TENURES.

At first settlement.

The following statement shows the extent of land covered by each grade of under-tenures at the time of the first settlement.

Name of Pargana.	EXTENT OF LAND IN BIGHAS COMPRISED BY					
	Chukanis.	Dar-Chukanis.	Dara-dar Chukanis.	Tasya-Chukanis.	Tali-Chukanis.	Tasya-Tali Chukanis.
Mekhligunj	1,84,004	45,462	4,977	585	.....	.....
Mathabhanga	2,92,629	1,11,853	19,985	1,500	.....	.....
Lalbazar	2,04,234	67,530	9,190	898	8	.....
Dinhata	3,03,671	1,34,545	26,555	2,733	308	2
Cooch Behar	3,79,042	1,29,040	15,271	656	90	.....
Tufangunj	1,93,657	70,768	10,008	599	2	.....
Total ...	15,57,237	5,59,198	85,986	6,971	408	2

At re-settlement.

It stood thus at the time of the re-settlement :—

NAME OF PARGANA.	EXTENT OF LAND IN BIGHAS COMPRISED BY					
	Chukanis.	Dar-Chukanis.	Dara-dar-Chukanis.	Tasya-Chukanis.	Tali-Chukanis.	Tasya-Tali-Chukanis.
Mekhligunj	2,08,255	70,264	15,360	2,128	74	7
Mathabhanga	3,12,166	1,47,772	40,446	6,544	1,067	149
Lalbazar	2,14,142	79,793	14,577	1,513	66	.....
Dinhata	2,99,947	1,49,333	37,255	5,748	544	12
Cooch Behar	3,52,982	1,24,286	25,649	2,597	37	.....
Tufangunj	1,66,104	50,532	10,085	1,237	.....	.....
Total ...	15,53,596	6,21,980	1,43,372	19,767	1,788	168

The variation of the extent of each grade of under-tenures since the first settlement was, therefore, as follows:— Variation since first settlement.

Name of Pargana.	Variation since the first settlement of land under					
	Chukanis	Dar-Chukanis	Daradar-Chukanis	Tasya-Chukanis	Tali-Chukanis	Tasya-Tali-Chukanis
Mekhligunj ...	+ 24,251	+ 24,802	+ 10,383	+ 1,543	+ 74	+ 7
Mathabhanga ...	+ 19,537	+ 35,919	+ 20,461	+ 5,044	+1,067	+ 149
Lalbazar	+ 9,908	+ 12,263	+ 5,387	+ 615	+ 58	.....
Dinhata	− 3,724	+ 14,788	+ 10,700	+ 3,015	+ 236	+ 10
Cooch Behar ...	− 26,060	− 4,754	+ 10,378	+ 1,941	+ 53	.....
Tufangunj ...	− 27,553	− 20,236	+ 77	+ 638	− 2	.....
Total ...	− 3,641	+ 62,782	+ 57,386	+12,796	+1,381	+ 166

And the percentage of the variation was :— Percentage of variation.

Name of Pargana.	PERCENTAGE OF VARIATION OF LAND UNDER					
	Chukanis	Dar-Chukanis.	Dara-dar-Chukanis.	Tasya Chukanis.	Tali-Chukanis.	Tasya-Tali-Chukanis.
Mekhligunj	+ 13·2	+54·3	+208·6	+262·0	.....	.....
Mathabhanga	+ 6·6	+32·1	+102·4	+336·3	.....	.....
Lalbazar	+ 4·8	+18·1	+ 58·6	+ 68·5	+725·0	... .
Dinhata	− 1·2	+11·0	+ 40·3	+110·3	+76·6	+ 500·0
Cooch Behar	− 6·8	− 3·7	+ 67·9	+295·9	+58·8	.....
Tufangunj	− 14·3	−28·6	+ 0·7	+106·5	.....	.....
Total ...	− 0·2	+11·2	+ 66·6	+183·5	+338·4	+8300·0

Result as compared with first settlement.

The total area covered by the Chukanis at the time of the re-settlement was 15,53,596 Bighas, and marked a decrease of 3,641 Bighas or ·23 percent on the area recorded at the first settlement. The decrease did not, however, take place in the every Pargana.

Chukanis

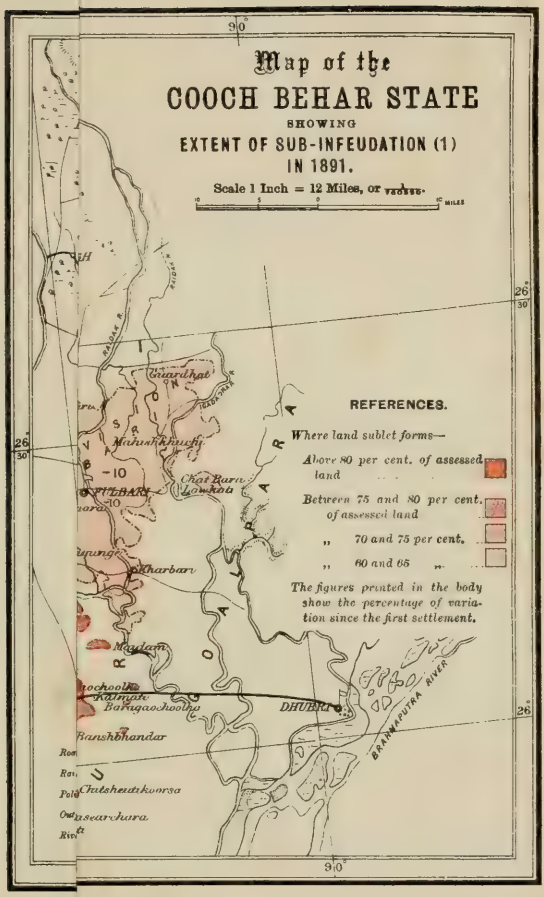
There was an increase in the first three Parganas, namely, Mekhligunj, Mathabhanga and Lalbazar, followed by a decrease in the remaining Parganas. The total increase amounted to 53,696 Bighas, and the total decrease to 57,337 ; there was thus a net decrease of 3,641 Bighas. The lagest area under Chukanis, namely, 3,52,982 Bighas, lay in Cooch Behar, and the smallest (1,66,104 Bighas) in Tufangunj. There had been no change in these Parganas in this proportion since the first settlement. Dinhata ranked second and Mathabhanga third, with 3,03,671 and 2,92,629 Bighas of Chukani, respectively, at the first settlement. At the re-settlement they changed places with each other, and had 2,99,947 and 3,12,166 Bighas, respectively. Lalbazar and Mekhligunj had occupied the fourth and the fifth place, respectively, at the first settlement. They kept those places at the re-settlement, although the former had an increase of 9,908 Bighas, and the latter, 24,251 Bighas, at the later date.

Dar-chukanis and under.

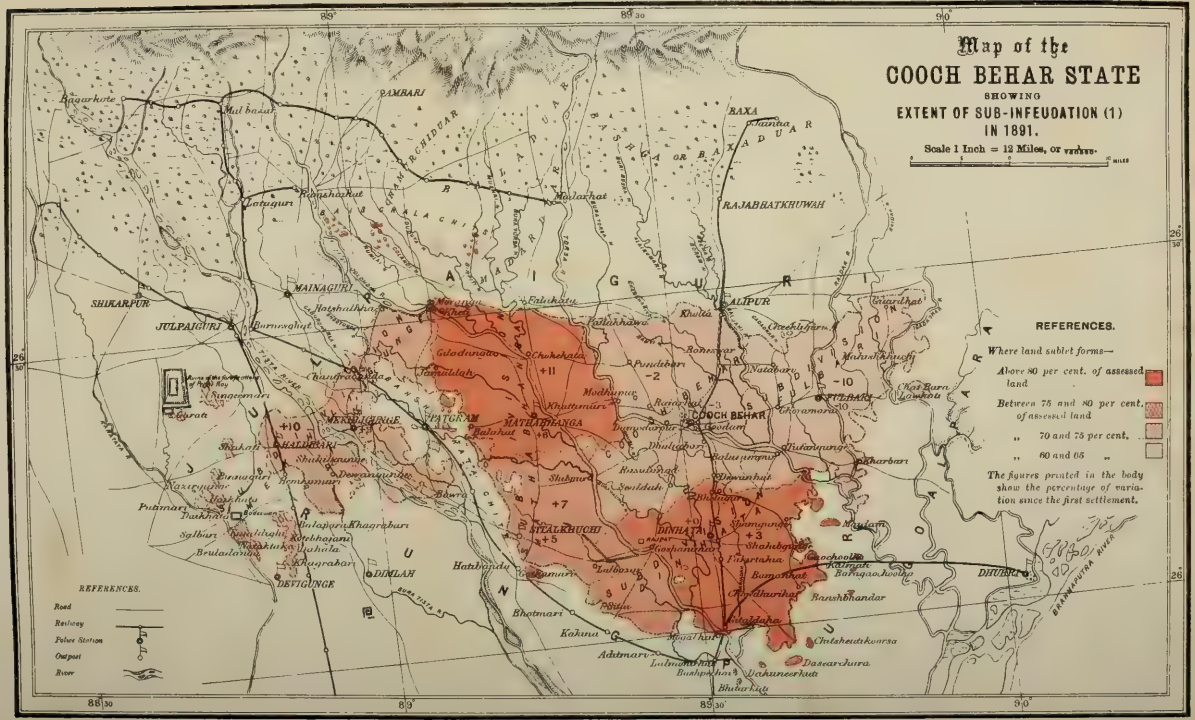
The increase under the next grades of under-tenures is, however, very marked. The Dar-chukani lands, covering an area of 6,21,980 Bighas at the time of re-settlement, showed an increase 62,782 Bighas or more than 11 percent ; the Dara-dar-chukanis, with an area of 1,43,372 Bighas, gave an increase of 57,386 Bighas, or 67 percent ; and the under-tenures of still lower grades together marked an increase of 14,343 Bighas, or 189 percent, over 7,381 Bighas recorded at the time of the first settlement. The increase took place in every Pargana except Cooch Behar and Tufangunj in the case of Dara-dar-chukani and Tali-chukani. The rate of increase became the larger the lower the under-tenure was in the scale.

Sub infeudation at the two settlements compared.

The comparative statement given on the next page shows the respective areas covered by the different under-tenures in every hundred Bighas of assessed land at the periods marked by the last two general settlements of the State. It will appear that taking the State as a whole the percentage of land under different grades of under-tenures on the total assessed area increased since the first settlement. The increase was at the rate of 3 per cent. for Chukanis and Dar-chukanis, 2 per cent. for Dara-dar-chukanis and a trifle for the rest. As for the different Parganas, the proportion of Chukani land increased every where except Cooch Behar and Tufangunj, and of Dar-chukani land in all but the last. This fact clearly proves that on the whole sub-infeudation has increased.


Map of the
COOCH BEHAR STATE
SHOWING
EXTENT OF SUB-INFEUDATION (1)
IN 1891.
Scale 1 Inch = 12 Miles, or
REFERENCES.
Where land sublet forms—
Above 80 per cent. of assessed land
Between 75 and 80 per cent. of assessed land
,, 70 and 75 per cent.
,, 60 and 65 ,,
The figures printed in the body show the percentage of variation since the first settlement.
Guardhat
Mahishkhoshi
Chat Barn
Lowkhs
PURBARI
Kharbari
Mogalam
Kalmati
Barigaochhoha
DHUBRI
Banshbhandar
Chakchaitkumra
Nagarjhara
BRAHMAPUTRA RIVER
90
26 30

To f



To face page 530.

A comparative statement showing the respective areas covered by the different under-tenures in every hundred Bighas of assessed land at the periods marked by the last two general settlements of the State.

Name of sub-divisions.	IN EVERY HUNDRED BIGHAS OF ASSESSED LAND THE AREA CONTRIBUTED BY THE UNDERTENURES AT THE																	
	First settlement.						*Re-settlement.*						*Variation.*					
	Chukani.	Dar-chukani.	Dara-dar-chukani.	Tasya-chukani.	Tali-chukani.	Tasya-tali-chukani.	Chukani.	Dar-chukani.	Dara-dar-chukani.	Tasya-chukani.	Tali-chukani.	Tasya-tali-chukani.	Chukani.	Dar-chukani.	Dara-dar-chukani.	Tasya-chukani.	Tali-chukani.	Tasya-tali-chukani.
Mekhligunj ...	60	18	2	·2	...	...	70	24	5	·9	·02	·002	+ 10	+ 6	+ 3	+ ·7	+ ·02	+ ·002
Mathabhanga ...	71	28	5	·3	...	...	82	38	10	·2	·3	·03	+ 11	+ 10	+ 5	− ·1	+ ·3	+ ·03
Lalbazar ...	68	23	3	·3	·003	...	75	24	5	·5	·02	...	+ 7	+ 1	+ 2	− ·2	+ ·017	.....
Dinhata ...	82	36	7	·7	·08	·0005	85	41	10	1	·1	·003	+ 3	+ 5	+ 3	+ ·3	+ ·02	+ ·0025
Cooch Behar ...	73	25	3	·1	·01	...	71	26	5	·5	·008	...	− 2	+ 1	+ 2	+ ·4	− ·002	.....
Tufangunj ...	71	27	3	·2	·0009	...	61	21	4	·4	...	..	− 10	− 6	+ 1	+ ·2	·0009	.....
Total ...	71	26	4	·7	·003	·00008	74	29	6	·9	·074	·006	+ 3	+ 3	+ 2	+ ·2	+ ·09	+ ·006

A comparative statement showing the respective areas covered by the different under-tenures in every hundred Bighas of assessed land at the periods marked by the last two general settlements of the State.

Name of sub-divisions.	IN EVERY HUNDRED BIGHAS OF ASSESSED LAND THE AREA CONTRIBUTED BY THE UNDERTENURES AT THE																	
	First settlement.						*Re-settlement.*						*Variation.*					
	Chukani.	Dar-Chukani.	Dara-dar-chukani.	Tasya-chukani.	Tali-chukani.	Tasya-tali-chukani.	Chukani.	Dar-chukani.	Dara-dar-chukani.	Tasya-chukani.	Tali-chukani.	Tasya-tali-chukani.	Chukani.	Dar-chukani.	Dara-dar-chukani.	Tasya-chukani.	Tali-chukani.	Tasya-tali-chukani.
Mekhligunj ...	60	18	2	·2	...	...	70	24	5	·9	·02	·002	+ 10	+ 6	+ 3	+ ·7	+ ·02	+ ·002
Mathabhanga ...	71	28	5	·3	...	...	82	38	10	·2	·3	·03	+ 11	+ 10	+ 5	− ·1	+ ·3	+ ·03
Lalbazar ...	68	23	3	·3	·003	...	75	24	5	·5	·02	...	+ 7	+ 1	+ 2	− ·2	+ ·017	.....
Dinhata ...	82	36	7	·7	·08	·0005	85	41	10	1	·1	·003	+ 3	+ 5	+ 3	+ ·3	+ ·02	+ ·0025
Cooch Behar ...	73	25	3	·1	·01	...	71	26	5	·5	·008	...	− 2	+ 1	+ 2	+ ·4	− ·002	.....
Tufangunj ...	71	27	3	·2	·0009	...	61	21	4	·4	...	..	− 10	− 6	+ 1	+ ·2	·0009	.....
Total ...	71	26	4	·7	·003	·00008	74	29	6	·9	·074	·006	+ 3	+ 3	+ 2	+ ·2	+ ·09	+ ·006

At first settlement.

EXTENT OF AN UNDER-TENANT'S HOLDING.

The table given below shows the average area of an under-tenure as it existed at the time of the first settlement:—

NAME OF PARGANA.	Average area in Bighas of					
	Chukani.	Dar-chukani.	Dara dar-chukani.	Tasya-chukani.	Tali-chukani.	Tasya tali-chukani.
Mekhligunj	40	21	23	7	.....	.....
Mathabhanga... ...	59	33	24	21	.....	.....
Lalbazar	44	26	20	22	2	.....
Dinhata	29	13	9	8	8	·5
Cooch Behar	42	23	18	10	90	.....
Tufangunj	95	46	26	27	2	.....
Total ...	44	22	15	11	9	·5

At re-settlement.

The area stood thus at the time of the re-settlement:—

NAME OF PARGANA.	Average area in Bighas of					
	Chukani.	Dar-chukani.	Dara-dar-chukani.	Tasya-chukani.	Tali-chukani.	Tasya-tali chukani.
Mekhligunj	33	24	22	20	5	2·3
Mathabhanga... ...	53	29	20	16	14	14·9
Lalbazar	41	25	20	21	8	.....
Dinhata	25	15	7	5	4	1·5
Cooch Behar	33	18	13	9	6	.....
Tufangunj	42	22	18	13	.....	.....
Total ...	35	19	13	8	8	8

The variation of the area of an under-tenure since the first settlement was thus as follows:— Variation.

Name of Pargana.	VARIATION OF THE AREA OF A					
	Chukani.	Dar-chukani.	Dara-dar-chukani.	Tasya-chukani.	Tali-chukani.	Tasya-tali-chukani.
Mekhligunj	−7	+ 3	−1	+13	+ 6	+ 2·3
Mathabhanga	−6	−4	−4	−5	+14	+14·9
Lalbazar	−3	−1	+9	−1	+ 6	.....
Dinhata	−4	−2	−2	−3	−4	+1·0
Cooch Behar	−9	−12	−5	−1	−48	.....
Tufangunj	−43	−24	−8	−14	−2	.....
Total... ...	−9	−3	−2	−8	−1	+7·5

And the percentage of the variation was,— Percentage of variation.

NAME OF PARGANA.	PERCENTAGE OF THE VARIATION IN					
	Chukani.	Dar-chukani.	Daradar-chukani.	Tasya-chukani.	Tali-chukani.	Tasya-Tali chukani.
Mekhligunj	−17	+14	−4	+185	+ 6	.....
Mathabhanga	−10	−12	−17	−24	.....	.....
Lalbazar	−7	+66	+82	− 4	+300	.....
Dinhata	−14	−15	−22	−37	−50	+200
Cooch Behar	−22	−55	−27	−10	−93	.....
Tufangunj	−50	−52	−30	−52	−100	.....
Total	−20	−14	−14	−27	−11	+1,500

Area of under-tenures decreased.

The average area of a Chukani at the time of the first settlement was 44 Bighas; that of a Dar-chukani 22, Dara-dar-chukani 15, Tasya-chukani 11, Tali-chukani 9 and Tasya-Tali-chukani ·5 or one-half Bigha. It is to be noted that there were only four bits of under-tenures of the last description with a total area of 2 Bighas. With the exception of Tasya-Tali-chukani, the area of every grade of under-tenure fell off at the time of the re-settlement, and, from Chukani to Tali-chukani, marked a decrease of 9,3,2,3,and 1 Bighas, or 20, 14, 14, 27 and 11 percent, respectively. The average area of Tasya-tali-chukani, however, increased to 8 Bighas showing a large increase of 7·5 percent. A Chukani is the largest in Mathabhanga with an area of 53 Bighas,and smallest in Dinhata with 25. The largest area of a Dar-chukani is now 29 Bighas in Mathabhanga, while at the former date it was so in Tufangunj with 46 Bighas. The smallest Dar-chukani in the State, comprising an area of 15 Bighas lies in Dinhata, against 13 Bighas in the same Pargana at the first settlement. Mekhligunj now records the largest area of the Dara-dar-chukani, which is 22 Bighas, and Dinhata does the smallest, namely, 7 Bighas, against 18 Bighas in Cooch Behar, and 9 Bighas in Dinhata, respectively, at the first settlement. Generally speaking, the area of an under-tenure of every grade is the smallest in Dinhata, even as it was at the previous settlement.

LAND UNDER KHAS POSSESSION OF UNDER-TENANTS.

At first settlement.

The following table shows the quantity of land directly held by the under-tenants of each grade at the time of the first settlement.

NAME OF PARGANA.	QUANTITY OF LAND IN BIGHAS DIRECTLY HELD BY					
	Chukani-dar.	Dar-chukani-dar.	Dara-dar-chukani-dar.	Tasya-chukani-dar.	Tali-chukani-dar.	Tasya-Tali-chukani-dar.
Mekhligunj	1,38,542	40,485	4,392	585	.....	.....
Mathabhanga	1,80,776	91,868	18,485	1,500	.....	.....
Lalbazar	1,36,704	58,340	8,292	890	8	.....
Dinhata	1,69,126	1,07,990	23,822	2,425	306	2
Cooch Behar...	2,50,002	1,13,769	14,615	566	90	.....
Tufangunj	1,22,889	60,760	9,409	597	2	.....
Total ...	9,98,039	4,73,212	79,015	6,563	406	2

At the time of re-settlement the figures stood thus:— At re-settlement.

NAME OF PARGANA.	QUANTITY OF LAND IN BIGHAS DIRECTLY HELD BY					
	Chukani-dar.	Dar-chukani-dar.	Dara-dar-chukani-dar.	Tasya-chukani-dar.	Tali-chukani-dar.	Tasya-Tali-chukani-dar.
Mekhligunj	1,37,991	54,904	13,232	2,054	67	7
Mathabhanga ...	1,64,394	1,07,326	33,902	5,477	918	149
Lalbazar	1,34,349	65,217	13,064	1,447	66	... ..
Dinhata	1,50,615	1,12,077	31,507	5,204	532	12
Cooch Behar	2,28,696	98,636	23,052	2,560	37	.....
Tufangunj	1,15,572	40,448	8,848	1,237	... ..	.....
Total ...	9,31,617	4,78,608	1,23,605	17,979	1,620	168

The variation of the quantity since the first settlement was therefore as follows:— Variation.

NAME OF PARGANA.	VARIATION OF THE LAND DIRECTLY HELD BY					
	Chukani-dar.	Dar-chukani-dar.	Dara-dar-chukani-dar.	Tasya-chukani-dar.	Tali-chukani. dar.	Tasya-Tali-chukani-dar.
Mekhligunj	- 551	+ 14,419	+ 8,840	+ 1,469	+ 67	+ 7
Mathabhanga	- 16,382	+ 15,458	+ 15,417	+ 3,977	+ 918	+ 149
Lalbazar	- 2,355	+ 6,876	+ 4,772	+ 557	+ 66	.....
Dinhata	- 18,511	+ 4,088	+ 2,685	+ 2,779	+ 226	+ 10
Cooch Behar	- 21,306	- 15,133	+ 8,437	+ 1,994	- 53	.....
Tufangunj	- 7,317	- 20,312	- 561	+ 640	- 2	.....
Total ...	- 66,422	+ 5,398	+ 44,590	+ 11,416	+ 1,214	+ 166

Percentage of variation.

And the percentage of the variation was:—

NAME OF PARGANA.	PERCENTAGE OF VARIATION.					
	Chukanidar.	Darchukanidar.	Dara-darchukanidar.	Tasyachukanidar.	Talichukanidar.	Tasya-Talichukanidar.
Mekhligunj	- 0·4	+35	+201	+ 251	.....	.....
Mathabhanga	- 9	+17	+83	+ 265	.....	.....
Lalbazar	- 2	+ 5	+91	+ 312	+ 2,885	.....
Dinhata	- 10	+ 3	+32	+ 114	+ 73	+ 500
Cooch Behar	- 9	- 13	+58	+ 352	+ 59	.....
Tufangunj	- 6	- 33	+5	+ 107	.....	.....
Total ...	- 7	+1	+56	+ 174	+ 229	+ 8,610

Khas possession of Chukanidars decreased.

The quantity of land in the khas possession of the under-tenants showed a general increase, except in the case of Chukanidars. The total area under the khas possession of the Chukanidars at the re-settlement was to 9,31,617 Bighas, against 9,98,039 Bighas of the first settlement, showing a decrease of 66,422 Bighas, or about 7 percent. Although the decrease occurred in every Pargana it was the largest in Dinhata and Cooch Behar, which had a falling off of above 18,000 and 20,000 Bighas, respectively, and the smallest in Mekhligunj which showed a nominal decrease of 551 Bighas only. The largest area (2,28,696 Bighas) in immediate possession of the Chukanidars lay in Cooch Behar. Next came Mathabhanga with 1,64,394 Bighas, followed by Dinhata with 1,50,615 Bighas ; Mekhligunj and Lalbazar had above 1,34,000 Bighas each ; while Tufangunj recorded the smallest area which was 1,15,572 Bighas.

That of others increased.

The case was different in respect of all other under-tenures. With a decrease of 13 and 33 percent in Cooch Behar and Tufangunj, respectively, the Darchukanis showed a net total increase of 5,398 Bighas, or 1 percent, at the re-settlement on the extent of 4,73,212 Bighas recorded at the first settlement. Although the increase under this head for the whole State was very small, Mekhligunj showed such a large increase as 35 percent, and Mathabhanga 17 percent. The increase under the next two grades of under-tenures, Dara-dar-chukani and Tasya-chukani, which existed in all the Parganas in 1872, was still more marked, Daradar-chukanis having attained 44,590 Bighas, or 56 percent, and the next lower grade, 11,416 Bighas, or 174 percent. With the exception of Tufangunj the increase was no where less than 30 percent in the case of Dara-

dar-chukanis ; it was so high as 201 percent in Mekhligunj. As for the Tasya-chukanis, although the figure of the percentage is large, the actual increase was nowhere full 4,000 Bighas. The remaining under-tenures did not show any material variation.

The following statement shows the average extent of land in the khas possession of each under-tenant at the time of the first settlement:— Average land in khas possession of an under-tenant at first settlement

Name of Pargana.	QUANTITY OF LAND IN BIGHAS IN THE KHAS POSSESSION OF					
	Chukanidar.	Darchukanidar.	Dara-darchukanidar.	Tasyachukanidar.	Talichukanidar.	Tasya-Talichukanidar.
Mekhligunj ...	30	19	20	7	.....	.....
Mathabhanga ...	37	27	23	21	.....	.....
Lalbazar	30	23	19	22	2	.....
Dinhata	16	11	8	7	8	·5
Cooch Behar ...	22	21	17	8	90	.....
Tufangunj ...	54	37	25	27	2	.....
Total ...	26	19	14	10	6	·5

At the time of the re-settlement the figures stood thus:— At re-settlement.

NAME OF PARGANA.	QUANTITY OF LAND IN BIGHAS IN THE KHAS POSSESSION OF					
	Chukanidar.	Darchukanidar.	Dar-a-darchukanidar.	Tasyachukanidar.	Talichukanidar.	Tasya-Talichukanidar.
Mekhligunj ...	22	19	19	20	5	2
Mathabhanga ...	28	21	17	13	13	14
Lalbazar ...	26	21	18	20	8	.....
Dinhata ...	13	9	6	5	4	1·5
Cooch Behar ...	21	14	12	9	6	.....
Tufangunj ...	29	18	16	13	.....	.....
Total ...	21	15	11	8	7	8

Variation.

The extent of variation at the last named date is shewn below :—

NAME OF PARGANA.	Variation since first settlement of the land in khas possession of					
	Chukanidar.	Dar-chukanidar.	Dara-dar-chukanidar	Tasya-chukanidar.	Tali-chukanidar.	Tasya-talichukanidar.
Mekhligunj ...	− 8	.....	− 1	+13	+ 5	+ 2
Mathabhanga	− 9	− 6	− 6	− 8	+13	+ 14
Lalbazar ...	− 4	− 2	− 1	− 2	+ 6	.....
Dinhata ...	− 6	− 2	− 2	− 2	− 4	+ 1
Cooch Behar...	− 8	− 7	− 7	+ 1	−14	.....
Tufangunj ...	−25	− 9	−21	−14	− 2	.....
Total ...	− 5	− 3	− 4	− 2	− 2	+ 7·5

Percentage of variation.

And the percentage of the variation was:—

Name of Pargana.	Percentage of the variation					
	Chukanidar.	Dar-chukanidar.	Dara-dar-chukanidar	Tasya-chukanidar.	Tali-chukanidar.	Tasya-talichukanidar.
Mekhligunj ...	— 27	.....	— 5	+186		
Mathabhanga	— 24	— 22	—26	— 38		
Lalbazar ...	— 13	— 9	— 5	— 9	+ 300	
Dinhata ...	— 37	— 18	—25	— 28	— 50	+ 200
Cooch Behar	— 27	— 33	—29	+ 12	— 15	
Tufangunj ...	— 46	— 54	—36	— 52	— 100	
Total ...	— 19	— 21	—21	— 20	— 22	+ 15

General decrease of the extent of khas possession of every under-tenant.

At the time of the first settlement, out of an average of 44 Bighas as being the extent of a Chukani, only 26 or about 64 per cent. was held in khas possession by the Chukanidar, and the remaining 18 Bighas or 36 percent. was sublet. The largest average area of a Chukani, as already noticed, occurred in Tufangunj ; but the extent of khas possession of the Chukanidar was the largest in Mekhligunj where it formed 75 percent. of the holding, and the smallest in Dinhata which had 35 percent. At the time of the re-

settlement the Chukanidar on an average held 21 Bighas, or 59 percent, of his holding in his khas possession. Khas possession by Chukanidar decreased about 5 percent at the latter date; this means that sub-infeudation increased by that much. This extent of khas possession was far from being uniform every where. Mekhligunj had 22 Bighas, Mathabhanga 28, Lalbazar 26, Dinhata 13, Cooch Behar 21,and Tufangunj 29. The percentage of these areas on the total of the holdings are 67, 52, 62, 50, 64,and 69, respectively. The largest proportion of the Chukani lands under khas possession is 69 percent, and it was shared by Tufangunj. The smallest percentage is 50 which occurred in Dinhata. In every Pargana more than one-half of the holding was held in khas possession by the Chukanidar. Chukanis.

In the case of Dar-chukanis the extent of khas possession of the rayat fell off from 19 Bighas to 15, showing a decrease of 4 Bighas or 21 percent. At the time of the first settlement Mekhligunj recorded 19 Bighas of such land, or 94 percent; Mathabhagna 27 Bighas, or 82 percent; Lalbazar 23 Bighas, or 83 percent; Dinhata 11 Bighas, or 80 percent; Cooch Behar 21 Bighas, or 89 percent; and Tufangunj 39 Bighas, or 85 percent. Cooch-Behar and Mekhligunj had, therefore, the largest percentage, and Mathabhanga the smallest; but in no Pargana was the extent of khas possession less than four-fifths of the holding. At the time of the re-settlement Mekhligunj had 19 Bighas; Mathabhanga and Lalbazar, 21 each; Dinhata, 9; Cooch Behar, 14; and Tufangunj, 18. The percentage of khas land on the total of the undertenure was thus 77, 72, 81, 75, 79 and 80, respectively. The highest percentage was, therefore, 81 and the lowest 72 against, 94 and 80, respectively, of first settlement. With the exception of Mekhligunj where the area under khas possession did not suffer any change, there was at the time of re-settlement a decrease ranging from 2 to 21 Bighas in every other Pargana, of the land directly held by the Dar-chukanidar. As compared with the total area of the holdings, however, the extent of the land in khas possession showed a falling off every where, amounting to 17 percent in Mekhligunj, 10 percent in Mathabhanga, 2 percent in Lalbazar, 5 percent in Dinhata, 10 percent in Cooch Behar, and 5 percent in Tufangunj, giving at total of 7 percent for the entire State. Dar-Chukanis

The extent of khas possession of the Dara-dar-chukanidar at the time of the re-settlement was 19 Bighas in Mekhligunj; 17 Bighas in Mathabhanga; 18 Bighas in Lalbazar; 6 in Dinhata; 12 in Cooch Behar; and 16 in Tufangunj; againt 20, 23, 19, 8, 17, 21, and 14, respectively, at the first settlement. showing a decrease in every Pargana. Taking the percentages for the Parganas at the Dara-dar-chukanis

two settlements, we get 88, 92, 90, 89, 93 and 90, and 86, 83, 89, 85, 89 and 80, respectively. Thus, at the time of the first settlement the highest extent of khas possession of a Dara-dar-chukanidar was 93, and the lowest 88 percent, of the holding; at the time of the re-settlement these figures came down to 89 and 80, respectively, showing a slight decrease. The total for the State was 14 Bighas at the first settlement, against 11 at the re-settlement, resulting in a decrease of 3, or 21 percent, at the later period.

Summary.

To sum up: In the most important and comprehensive under-tenures the extent of land in the khas possession of the rayat is the largest in the lowest tenancy; it decreases as the undertenure rises in the scale. The average of the land in khas possession of a Chukanidar forms 59 percent of his holding; that of a Dar-chukanidar 77 percent; and of a Dara-dar-chukanidar, 86 percent. At the time of the first settlement these figures were 64, 84, and 93, respectively. The area under khas possession of the under-tenant has thus decreased in every Pargana in the course of the two decades that followed the first settlement of the State. This is attributable to a general increase of sub-infeudation.

SECTION II.

Lakhirajes or Rent-free holdings.

A large quantity of land is held rent-free by different persons all over the State. These lands were received alike by Hindus and Mahomadans, and the grants were made for both secular and religious purposes. Ordinarily, Brahmans and pious Musalmans obtained them for the worship of some gods or *pirs*. Laymen also received rent-free lands for meritorious acts, or good services done to the State, or as a provision for maintenance. These last gifts were made mostly to the relations and connections of the Maharajas, whose maintenance was a charge on the government of the country. *Lakhirajes described.*

These lands bear five different denominations according to the purpose which they serve. They are called:— Different denominations

(1) *Brahmattar*—when the grants are made to *Brahmans.*

(2) *Debottar*—when alloted to the worship of a particular *deva* or deity.

(3) *Pirpál*—when given to Musalmans for the support of *pirs* or saints.

(4) *Lakhiraj*—for meritorious act.

(5) *Petbhata*—for maintenance.

Jaigirs or service-lands, though enjoyed by the holders without rent, are quite distinct from the lands of the above descriptions. The Jaigirdars have to render personal service as a return for the occupation and enjoyment of the lands. This is a feature which is not present in any of the above grants. Jaigirs not classified as Lakhirajes.

During the time of some of the former rulers some persons in office took undue advantage of their position, and managed to secure large quantities of rent-free lands. These men by improper means obtained *sunnads* or deeds of gift of rent-free grants from the Maharajas, or the Maharanis who acted as regents for the time being. There was no check on the acts of these persons, who were generally the favourites of the court. During the minority of Maharaja Harendra Narayan when the administration was in the hands of his mother the Dowager Maharani and the infamous Sarbanund Gossain, this illegal practice was carried to such an excess that the British Commissioner had to interfere, and resume all invalid or fradulent grants. In the course of the first settlement similar steps had also to be taken in the interest of the State. Proceedings were accordingly taken against all holders of rent-free lands, and such of the grants confirmed as were found on full enquiry to have been really made, and were supported by genuine *sunnads*. Several invalid grants Invalid Lakhirajes

Their resumption.

were resumed, some of which were, however, settled with the holders, on special grounds, at half rates, either in perpetuity or for a fixed period.

Resumption proceedings described.

A description of these proceedings is given below from the Dewan's final report of the first settlement of Pargana Mathabhanga:—

"Every piece of land held rent-free by any party formed the subject of a resumption case, which was fully enquired into by the Deputy Collector under whose superintendence the land had been measured; he submitted his report to the Settlement Officer who, after referring the case to the Dewan for his opinion, sent up the papers with his own to the Commissioner who passed the final orders."

Lands under half rates.

A large amount of revenue was obtained by the resumption and assessment of invalid rent-free lands. It came up to close upon a lac of rupees, as will be fully noticed hereafter. The quantity of land settled half rates during the first settlement operations was 27,692 Bighas as detailed below:—

NAME OF PARGANA	Quantity of land settled at half rates.		
	In perpetuity.	For a fixed term.	Total.
	Bighas.	Bighas.	Bighas.
Mekhligunj	1,543	839	2,382
Mathabhanga	100	150	250
Lalbazar	337	12,045	12,382
Dinhata	3,304	3,924	7,228
Cooch Behar	2,150	2,622	4,772
Tufangunj	321	357	678
Total ...	7,755	19,937	27,692

Of the land settled at half-rates 19,937 Bighas was for a fixed term, generally during the life time of the grantee, and the remainder, 7,755 Bighas, in perpetuity. In the course of the next

two decades the area under half-rates suffered a diminution, and at the time of the re-settlement its extent stood thus:—

Name of Pargana.	QUANTITY OF LAND HELD AT HALF RATES.		
	In perpetuity.	For a fixed term.	Total.
Mekhligunj	1,543	.....	1,543
Mathabhanga	100	150	250
Lalbazar	465	11,322	11,787
Dinhata	1,974	2,650	4,624
Cooch Behar	1,780	638	2,418
Tufangunj	309	.....	309
Total ...	6,171	18,760	20,931

It will be seen that at the later date of the *Rakam Churcha* there was a decrease of 6,761 Bighas owing to lands held at half rates having been assessed at full rates. The area under half rates still forms about one percent of the extent of the State, and a little above one and a half percent of the assessed lands. The figures for the different Pargana are given below :—

Name of Pargana.	Percentage of the lands under half rates on total area of the State.	Percentage of lands under half rates on assessed land.
Mekhligunj	·4	·5
Mathabhanga	·05	·06
Lalbazar	3·5	4·1
Dinhata	1·1	1·2
Cooch Behar	·3	·5
Tufangunj	·08	·1
Total	·9	1·7

Lands settled at half rates predominate in Lalbazar and Dinhata, the area in the first named Pargana alone, namely, 11,787 Bighas, exceeding the total for the remainder of the State. There is not much land of this description in Mathabhanga and Tufangunj, which have only 250 and 309 Bighas, respectively.

Table showing different kinds of rent-free lands in all the Parganas at the time of the two settlements.

Name of Pargana.	Quantity of rent-free land at the first settlement.						Quantity of rent-free land at the re-settlement.						Variation.					
	Brahmottar.	Debottar.	Pirpal.	Petbhata.	Lakhiraj.	Total.	Brahmottar.	Debottar.	Pirpal.	Petbhata.	Lakheraj.	Total.	Brahmottar.	Debottar.	Pirpal.	Petbhata.	Lakhiraj.	Total.
Mekhligunj ...	4,220	154	.....	10,321	721	15,416	4,544	154	... .	....	313	5,011	+324	.....	.....	−10,321	−408	−10,405
Mathabhanga ...	2,248	1,458	.....	3,293	262	7,261	2,609	1,458	.....	3,065	187	7,319	+361	.....	.....	−228	−75	+ 58
Lalbazar ...	14,741	30	.....	30	246	15,047	14,809	30	.....	30	246	15,115	+68	.....	.. ...	.....	... ..	+ 68
Dinhata ...	6,241	842	.....	193	531	7,807	6,689	842	.....	193	537	8,261	+448	.....	.....	... ..	+6	+ 454
Cooch Behar ...	10,347	2,247	84	2,289	879	15,846	11,426	1,731	84	2,278	880	16,399	+1,079	−516	.....	−11	+1	+ 554
Tufangunj ...	2,225	92	.....	2,500	.....	4,817	2,255	92	.....	2,500	.....	4,847	+30	.....	.....	.....	.....	+ 30
Total ...	40,022	4,823	84	18,626	2,639	66,194	42,332	4,307	84	8,066	2,163	56,952	+2,310	−516	.....	−10,560	−476	− 9242

Fluctuation of rent-free lands.

The total of rent-free land was 66,194 Bighas at the first settlement, but came down to 56,952 Bighas at the re-settlement, showing a decrease of 9,242 Bighas, or 15 percent. Except in Pargana Mekhligunj, where a Petbhata land measuring a little above 10,000 Bighas belonging to some Rajgans was resumed and an allowance was granted to the holders instead, there was a net increase of rent-free lands in every other Pargana. After the Installation rent-free grants have from time to time been made, mostly to the Brahmins for celebrating some memorable events, and this fact accounts for the small increase that has taken place under this head. The Panchagram Brahmins who live in Pargana Cooch Behar near the town of Cooch Behar have been the recipients of the favour of the State in this matter far more liberally than any one else. This is the reason why the increase of rent-free lands is the largest in Pargana Cooch Behar.

Annual value of the land.

As noticed above the quantity of land held rent-free in the State is 56,952 Bighas. At the average rate of assessment of 9 annas and 7 pies per Bigha obtained at the re-settlement, the jama assessable on the rent-free land would be about Rs. 34,000.

SECTION III.

Jaigirs or Service lands.

Jaigirdary system very old.

In almost every country the Jaigirdari system has prevailed in some shape or other. Under this system land is held free of rent on condition of rendering personal service to the grantor. The land so held is called *Jaigir* land. In some parts of Bengal it is called *Chakran*-land or land given to servants, and is the exact equivalent of the English "service-land".

History of Jaigirs.

This system has been in working in the State from a remote antiquity. "The system", observes Dewan Rai Calica Doss Dutt Bahadur C.I.E., in his final report of the settlement of Mathabhanga in 1876, "must have been introduced when land did not possess much value, and when the personal liberty of the subjects was not much respected. Some years ago the Jaigirdars were looked upon as slaves (*golams*). They could be imprisoned or made to suffer corporal punishment of any description by their superior. Their number originally was 974. The lands given to them were not clearly described in any book; the consequence was that they generally held much larger quantities than they were entitled to. As improvements began to be introduced into the State, and the liberty of the subjects was more and more respected, it was found that the Jaigirdari system did not work satisfactorily. The Jaigirdars were accustomed to work in the old way; they were lazy and irregular; their usefulness also decreased owing to the change in the nature of the work which had to be done at the Rajbari. In the course of the new settlement their number has, therefore, been gradually reduced to 367.

Morangias.

"The most influential class amongst the Jaigirdars consisted of the Morangias. Their ancestors were slaves given as presents by a Morang Raja to Maharaja Nara Narayan of Cooch Behar towards the close of the sixteenth century, on the occasion of a marriage. These men settled in Kodalksheti, Bhogmara and other Taluks in Pargana Mathabhanga, and one member of each family served as Jaigirdar. In time the Morangias managed to acquire some influence, and committed much oppression on the people. When we adopted steps for defining their Jaigir lands, they filed resignations giving up their posts; these resignations were accepted and their lands were resumed and settled with them. They are now turning into peaceful rayats."

Character of Jaigir tenure.

The Jaigirdars as already noticed are bound to give certain defined personal service for the lands they hold. If they fail to do so, or are inefficient, or if their services are no longer required, their lands are resumed. Jaigir lands are consequently not saleable

or transferrable. They can not be encumbered by the creation of tenures under them. On the death of a Jaigirdar qualified heirs ordinarily inherit, or rather are chosen to succeed him ; but the State is not bound to accept the services of the heir, and can substitute some one else.

Resumption of Jaigirs.

Before the first settlement the number of Jaigirdars was very large. They were mostly useless men and the settlement was availed of to greatly reduce their number, and also to define exactly the quantity of land each Jaigirdar should hold. Some idea may be formed of the large extent of resumption of these lands when it is remembered that a sum of Rs. 14,691 was obtained by the settlement of the resumed Jaigirs alone.

Existing strength of Jaigirs.

There are now altogether 369 Jaigirdars in the State. They are employed as servants in the Palace and in the State Thakurbaris, both in the town of Cooch Behar and in the muffasil. The extent of land allowed to each person varies according to the importance of the services done, and is not ordinary less than one Bish or 13 Bighas. Some idea of the different kinds of services performed by these men will be best formed from an examination of the following list of names of the posts held by the Jaigirdars.

Name of office in vernacular.	Meaning.
Bakshi	A court-officer who took part in different ceremonials. His most important work was to exercise control over the Jaigirdars.
Báráit	*Farásh*-maker.
Báriyá	A domestic.
Behárá	Palki-bearer.
Bhitar paliyá ...	General servant.
Bokná dhará ...	Toshakhána servant.
Chhatra dhará ...	One who holds the umbrella.
Dewri	Servant attached to Thakurbaris.
Farásiyá	Light-man.
Háluyá	Ordinary cooly.
Házrà	Head of buffalo-keepers.
Jhárudár	Sweeper.
Mántá	Peon ; headman.
Nápit	Barber.
Pákhá dhará ...	Holder of the fan.
Pujári	Priest or worshipper of idols.
Soyá saliyá	Kitchen-servant.
Tárài	Headman of *Haluyas*.
Tekar sáliyá ...	Water-man.
Thayát	Betel-maker.
Tirkar	Wicker-work maker.

Fluctuation of Jaigir lands.

The following table shows the details of the service land in the different Parganas at the two settlements:—

Name of Pargana.	FIRST SETTLEMENT.		RE-SETTLEMENT.		VARIATION.	
	Number of Jaigirs.	Quantity of land.	Number of Jaigirs	Quantity of land.	Number of Jaigirs.	Quantity of land.
		Bighas.		Bighas.		Bighas.
Mekhligunj ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mathabhanga ...	50	2,932	50	2,932	.....	.....
Lalbazar ...	35	893	35	893	.....	.....
Dinhata ...	10	336	11	343	+ 1	+ 7
Cooch Behar ...	239	13,700	239	13,554	.....	— 146
Tufangunj ...	32	1,010	34	1,390	+ 2	+380
Total ...	366	18,871	369	19,112	+ 3	+241

Number.

From 366 at the time of the first settlement the number of Jaigirs rose to 369 at the time of the re-settlement. The increase amounted to three, of which one was in Dinhata, and two in Tufangunj. There is no service land in Mekhligunj.

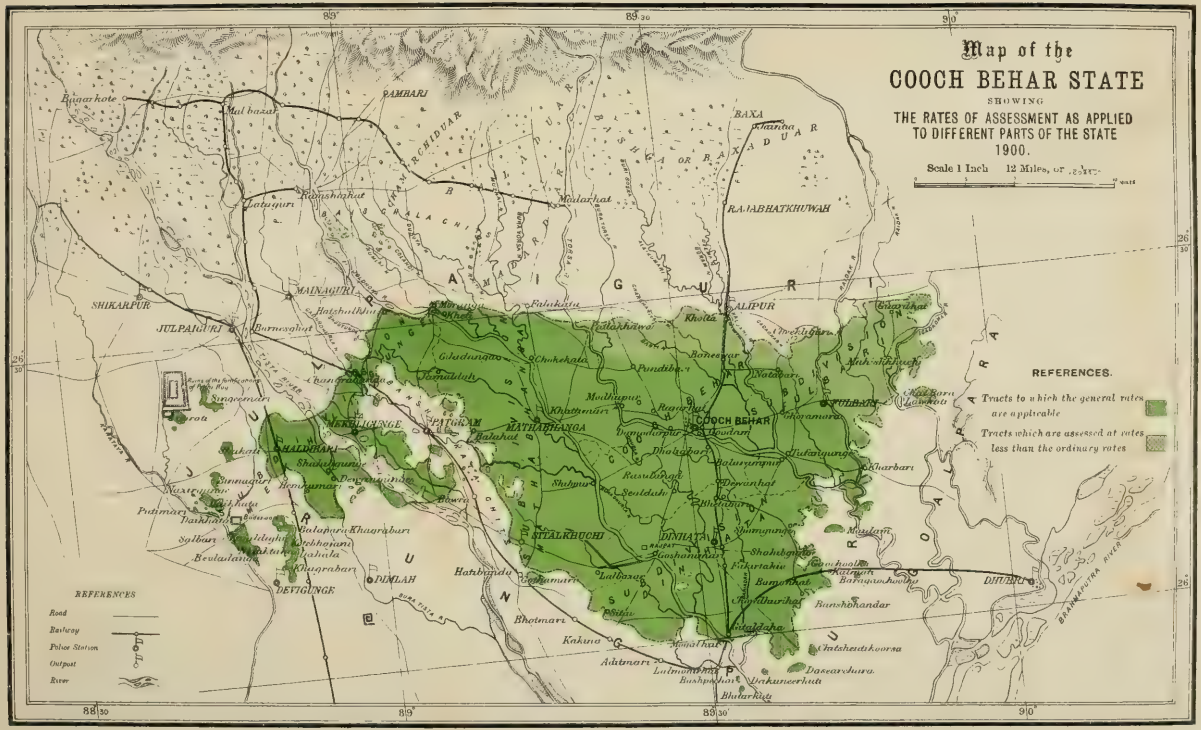
Area.

The area covered by the Jaigirs came up to 18,871 Bighas at the first settlement and increased by 241 Bighas at the time of the re-settlement. This increase is due to the increase in the number of Jaigirs at the latter date.

The system unsuitable to modern age

With the growing idea of comfort and liberty of the modern age the Jaigirdari system is fast becoming antiquated and unpopular. Most of the Jaigirdars are anxious to throw off the yoke of subservience which the system imposes and are desirous of setting up as independent rayats whose obligation to the State mainly ceases with the payment of the land revenue. The State also does not gain by their services which are generally inferior to what can be easily obtained for hire in these days of keen competition at a much cheaper cost[12].

[12] Since the above was written, 203 Jaigirs, covering an area of 10,061 Bighas have been resumed and settled in jote right with the last Jaigirdars or their representatives, or under-tenants. The amount of revenue thus obtained comes up to Rs 6,801. The work done by these Jaigirdars is now being had from paid servants at an annual cost of Rs 140. There are at present 166 Jaigirs covering an area of about 9,000 Bighas in the whole State.



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CHAPTER V.

ASSESSMENT.

SECTION I.

Rates and their application.

I.—GENERAL RATES.

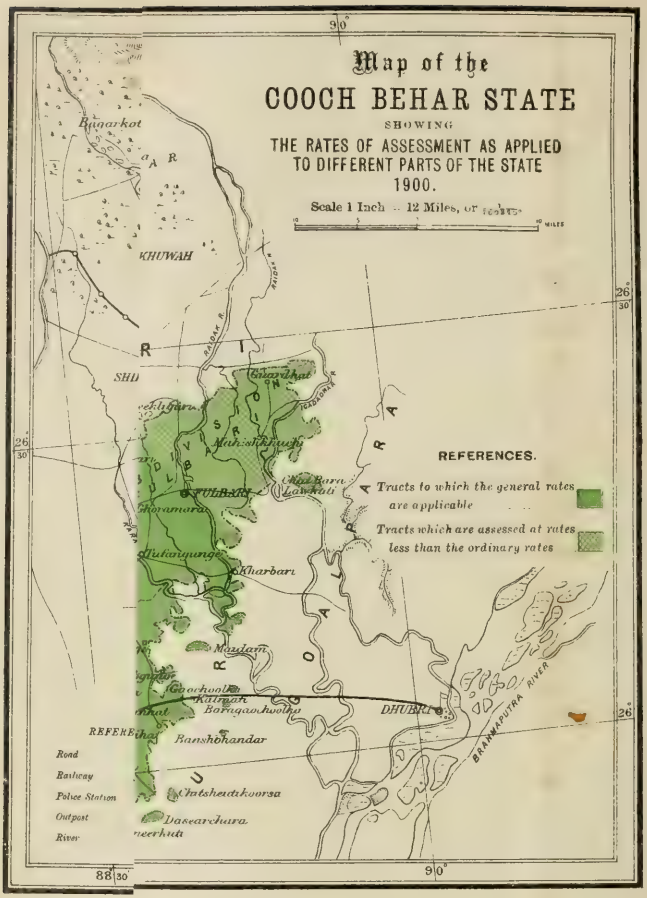
Old revenue rates.

The whole country of Cooch Behar was never assessed at a uniform revenue rate. In very old times, before the country came into political relations with the English, there were three different rates of assessment; namely, Rs 20 for a Bish of first class land; Rs 15, of second class; and Rs 10, of third class. A Bish is equivalent to about 13 Bighas of standard measurement. The rate of per Bigha was thus Rs. 1-8-3 for first class land, Rs. 1-2-6 for second class, and 12 annas and 3 pies for third class land. The average of the three rates was Rs 1-2-4. But these rates had no practical importance, as regular assessment of land was very seldom undertaken.

Old Nirikhnama rates.

Subsequently, it can not be ascertained when, but probably in the beginning of the last century, a three-fold schedule of rates was fixed by Mr. Ahmuty, Commissioner of Cooch Behar, during the minority of Maharaja Harendra Narayan. These rates are given below:—

Classes of land.	OLD NIRIKHNAMA RATES.		
	Schedule I. Zillah Gitaldaha.	Schedule II. Zillah Lalbazar. do. Mathabhanga do. Durganagar.	Schedule III. Bilat Chowra & Shandara.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
1. Betelnut garden ...	6 1 5	6 1 5	6 1 5
2. Jotedars' homestead ...	3 12 10	3 0 8	2 4 6
3. Under-tenants' do. ...	3 0 8	2 4 6	1 14 5
4. Garden	3 12 10	3 0 8	2 4 6
5. Bamboo land	1 8 4	1 2 3	0 12 2
6. Awal (1st class cultivated land).	1 2 3	0 12 2	
7. Duiam (2nd class cultivated land).	0 14 4	0 9 1	0 7 7
8. Saium (3rd class cultivated land).	0 12 2	0 7 7	0 6 1
9. Chaharam (4th class cultivated land).	0 9 8	0 6 1	0 3 7
10. *San* or grass-land ...	1 2 3	0 12 2	0 9 1
11. Laik patit	0 7 7	0 4 6	0 2 5



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11. Laik patit	0 7 7	0 4 6	0 2 5

Tracts governed by different schedules.

"The highest rates," observes Dewan Rai Calica Doss Dutt Bahadur C.I.E., in his memorandum of rates for the re-settlement, "were leviable for the portion of Pargana Dinhata situated to the south of Dinhata, and east of the Dharla (probably the old Dharla); this Pargana was called Zilla Gitaldah in the Niriknama. The tract of country of which the highest rates (schedule No. I) could be applied was in the most flourishing condition in the beginning of the present century ; the only road then in existence passed through it to Rangpur, and its proximity to that place added to its importance.

"The second schedule of rates given in the Niriknama was applicable to Zilla Lalbazar (Pargana Lalbazar), Zilla Mathabhanga (Pargnas Mathabhanga and Mekhligunj), Zilla Durganagar, (greater part of Pargana Cooch Behar, and perhaps a portion of Tufangunj), and to the portion of Zilla Gitaldah (Pargana Dinhata) not included in the first schedule. It will be observed that this schedule had reference to the greater portion of the State.

"In the third or last schedule were included Bilat Chowra (Northern portion of Pargana Cooch Behar) and Bilat Shandara (portion of Pargana Tufangunj)".[13]

The rates were originally low.

When the rates were originally fixed they were comparatively low. Afterwards cesses or *Kartanies* were added to them and in course of time they rose to the figures shewn above. The highest rates, as already noticed, were applicable to the southern portion of the modern Pargana Dinhata, which was formerly the most prosperous tract in the whole State, and the lowest rates were for Girds Chowra and Shandara and Bilat Bishguri, which bordered on the Bhutan jungles, and were in a backward condition, with a very thin population and large uncleared areas. But all these tracts taken together formed only a small fraction of the whole State. The second schedule of the old Niriknama was therefore applicable to the greater part of the country, and practically represented the prevailing rates of Cooch Behar before the first settlement.

Explanation of the rates.

The highest rate under the old Niriknama was Rs 6 per Bigha, and this was for betelnut land. Betelnut was then, as it is now, a highly paying crop ; in fact, a Bigha of land containing betelnut trees yielding fruits, brings in to the owner a good income of at least a hundred rupees a year. Next came the rate for the Bastu or homestead of jotedars, and garden lands, namely, Rs. 3-12-10 per Bigha. A difference was made in the case of home-

[13] Memorandum of Rates for the New (Rakam churcha) Settlement, Dewan's office No. 1096 of the 4th September 1888, addressed to the President of the State Council.

stead lands of undertenants which were charged about a fifth less than that of jotedars. But this distinction was made without any real difference in the character of the two lands. For there was no intrinsic merit in a jotedar's Bastu wich made it necessarily superior to the undertenant's homestead. On the other hand it often happened then, as it does now, that an undertenant had a better Bastu land than his jotedar. Bamboo lands ranked next. First class cultivated land and thatching grass land were assessed at the same rate. Patit or fallow lands bore a rate varying from 2½ to 7½ annas in different parts of the country.

Rates never largely used.

These rates, however, had no universal application, as no general assessment was ever made with them. They were only occasionally made use of. "The old standard rates shown in the Niriknama were always taken in assessing all khas lands. In deciding enhancement suits between Ijardars and Jotedars assessment was made at these rates, whenever the latter did not agree to pay amicably the increase in the Ijara Jama. The sanctioned cesses were also always added in preparing the Jamabandi."[14]

Why rates were lowered during first settlement.

When the first settlement was concluded these rates were considerably lowered, and there were very good reasons for doing so. The people had been, in the absence of a thorough measurement, holding a very large quantity of land without fully paying for it, and it was expected that a large increase of revenue would follow a general measurement of the country and ascertainment of the exact quantity of land held by each Jotedar. If under these circumstances the old high rates were applied the increase of revenue would have been abnormally large, and proved practically unbearable by a people who had been accustomed to hold lands almost for a nominal revenue. The object of the authorities was to ascertain the extent of cultivation and of the holding of each rayat, and to assess all lands at a uniform rate. The rates were therefore purposely lowered to make the settlement as easy as the circumstances permitted.

First settlement rates.

The following schedule of rates was thus adopted in the place of schedules Nos. I and II of the old Niriknama, and was evidently based on the old schedule No. II :—

Classes of land.	Rate per Bigha. Rs.	A.	P.
1. Betelnut land	2	8	0
2. Homestead	2	8	0
3. Garden	2	8	0
4. Bamboo land	1	2	0
5. Cultivated land	0	8	0
6. Son or grass land	0	8	0
7. Patit	0	1	0

[14] Dewan's Memorandum of Rates, *vide* foot-note to page 550.

Reduced rates for Girds Chowra and Shandara.

Girds Chowra and Shandara were still in a backward condition and the rates for these Girds were made a fourth less than the above, as had been the custom before the settlement.

As already noticed the authorities wanted to have an amount of revenue which could be easily paid and did not think it necessary to be discriminating in fixing the rates. Thus, betelnut, homestead, and garden lands, were assesed alike at a uniform rate of Rs. 2-8; bamboo lands at Rs. 1-2; all cultivated lands, at 8 annas; and patit lands at one anna per Bigha. *San* or thatching grass lands were charged with the same rate as cultivated lands, namely, 8 annas per Bigha.

No new rates for Patit Charcha.

The Patit Charcha operations were supplementary to the first settlement; only the fallow lands included within the jotes in the course of the first settlement and brought under cultivation since were assessed at the rate applicable to cultivated lands. No new rates had thus to be fixed for these operations.

Distinguishing feature of re-settlement and classification of Taluks.

It was at the time of re-settlement that an attempt was made for the first time in the history of the land revenue settlement of the country to fix evenly graduated scales of rates for different kinds of land and differently situated localities. This was begun by classifying the Taluks into first, second, and third class. This was only a broad classification of the entire surface of the country into good, fair and bad tracts, both in respect of the character of soil, and the facility possessed by the tracts in matters of communication and convenience of trade, and of other considerations which go to enhance the value of land and add to the comforts of life. All the Taluks do not possess the same kind of soil, or the same proportion of good soil; nor is the means of communication equal everywhere. Taluks near the towns and bundars fetch a better price for the crops than those in the interior. A classification of Taluks was neccessary for these reasons.

Classification by Taluks gave better results than by Parganas.

This was decidedly an improvement on the mode of classification followed in the old Nirikhnama. As the object of classification is to find out the different capacities of the soil or of tracts for regulating the pressure of assessment, the more minute is the examination, the more satisfactory is the result. In the old Nirikhnama different schedules were made applicable to different Parganas, irrespective of the diversity that existed amongst the Taluks situated within the same. Although belonging to the same Pargana, Taluks often materially differ from each other, so that the same rate which is fair for one, becomes unfair in the case of another. To make the Pargana the standard of application of rates is not thus free from objection. The Taluks on the

other hand represent very minor portions of the country where almost all the lands are practically alike, and furnish better units of classification than the extensive Parganas. By picking out therefore Taluks of the same character from different parts of the country and subjecting similar groups of them to similar rates of assessment, the authorities succeeded in securing increases from where increases could be justly claimed, and at the same time in providing against over-assessment of the backward Taluks and granting reductions where they were urgently called for.

Classification of Taluks based upon cultivated lands

In classifying the Taluks, however, only the cultivated area, with the exception of tobacco lands, and the thatching grass lands were taken into consideration. Homesteads, gardens and bamboo lands were left out of account. Gardens and bamboos are generally raised around the homestead land, and their character might everywhere be said to be the same. Success in the cultivation of tobacco largely depends upon the personal care of the cultivator, and his expenses for manuring the field. The crop is raised generally on high land not fit for paddy cultivation. Thus, every Taluk possesses to some extent lands that suit the cultivation of tobacco. These lands were, therefore, also left out of consideration in fixing the standard of the Taluk.

The classification of Taluks was followed by an elaborate classification of the soil into sixteen kinds, as noticed in the foregoing Chapter. As already observed great care was taken to have the lands properly classified, so that the increase which the State demanded might not be large, and might be evenly distributed ; it was also necessary to see that the assessment did not press upon the holders of bad lands, owing to the want of proper discrimination of the quality of the soil.

Although the re-settlement was undertaken for the purpose of getting an increase to the State Revenue, the interest of the rayat was not lost sight of in fixing the rates. The two sides of the question were thus clearly put forward by the Dewan when the question of the increase came up for discussion :—

Considerations affecting the question of enhancement.

"It could not be denied that during the last 50 years the value of produce had more than doubled and the State had made very great progress in civilisation. The opening of the Northern Bengal State Railway, and the construction of roads all over the State had opened up the country a good deal for purposes of trade, and served to increase the value of produce. The State was much better governed than before, and life and property were much more secure. Large sums were spent in educating the people, and in maintaining charitable dispensaries for

their treatment. For all these different reasons the State was fully justified in claiming an increase on the occasion of the revision of the settlement. But it would not be reasonable to determine this increase in proportion to the increase in the value of produce. Formerly, the number of middlemen was not large, and the jotedars were generally the actual cultivators of the land. Old jotedars have now been mostly reduced to the position of Chukanidars, or Darchukanidars, and the rights they enjoyed before are now being enjoyed by foreigners. Again, with the increase in the material prosperity the expenses of Cooch Behar people have very much increased. Considering both sides of the question I was of opinion that the settlement should be concluded for 30 years, and that the rates for jotedars should be such as would give an increase of about 24 percent on the total revenue to your Highness."[15]

Re-settlement rates.

The following schedules of rates were accordingly sanctioned by His Highness in Council for the re-settlement of the State :—

KINDS OF LAND.	RATE PER BIGHA.		
	First class Taluk.	Second class Taluk.	Third class Taluk.
	Rs A. P.	Rs A. P.	Rs A. P.
1. Betelnut land ...	4 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0
2. Bastu or homestead ...	3 0 0	3 0 0	3 0 0
3. Udbastu	3 0 0	3 0 0	3 0 0
4. Garden	3 0 0	3 0 0	3 0 0
5. Bamboo	1 2 0	1 2 0	1 2 0
6. Tobacco, first class ...	1 8 0	1 8 0	1 8 0
7. Ditto, second class ...	1 4 0	1 4 0	1 4 0
8. Ditto, third class ...	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0
9. Awal	1 0 0	0 14 0	0 13 0
10. Duiam	0 12 0	0 11 0	0 10 0
11. Saiam	0 9 0	0 8 0	0 7 0
12. Chaharam	0 7 0	0 6 0	0 5 0
13. *San* or thatching grass land.	0 7 0	0 6 0	0 5 0
14. Jala	0 8 0	0 8 0	0 8 0
15. Laik patit	0 2 0	0 2 0	0 2 0
16. Garlaik patit ...	0 1 0	0 1 0	0 1 0

Special rates for tobacco.

"Formerly, there were no special rates for tobacco lands. In the course of the last settlement such lands were classed as culti-

[15] Annual Revenue Administration Report, Cooch Behar 1888-89, para 57.

vated land and assessed at 8 annas a Bigha. The advisibility or otherwise of having separate rates for this class of land had to be very carefully considered. There was a divergence of opinion amongst the officers consulted on this subject. Some thought that the soil on which tobacco was grown was not good ; it was sandy and unfertile, the profit obtained was solely due to the labour of and the expense incurred by the cultivators. This argument did not appear to be very strong. It could not be denied that there was a quality in the soil itself which made it specially suitable to the cultivation of tobacco. This quality in the soil might not be useful for the purposes of paddy cultivation, but that was no reason for not taking it into account in fixing the rate for tobacco growing land. Moreover, it had been found that the rayat, in Pargana Lalbazar, where tobacco was extensively grown, used to pay rents at high rates for tobacco lands ; the rate was sometimes so high as Rs. 4 per Bigha. The rayats did not mind to pay rent at high rates, because the profits derived by them from tobacco lands were also high. For these reasons it was thought just to fix special rates for tobacco lands."[16]

How the rates for cultivated lands were arrived at.

As stated above the rates for the first settlement were fixed on the basis of those given in Schedule No.II of the old Nirikhnama. The high rates in Schedule No. I were not taken into account. Schedule No. III had reference to certain bad tracts which deserved special consideration. In fixing the rates for cultivated lands, other than tobacco lands, for the re-settlement the rates shewn in Schedule No. II, as well as those prevailing in the neighbouring British districts, were taken into consideration.

The following extract from the Dewan's Memorandum of Rates show how the rates for the cultivated lands were arrived at :—

The rates were increased 2 per cent on an average.

"In fixing the rates (for other cultivated lands) it is necessary not only to consider what the prevailing rates in the State are, but also to see at what rates rents are paid by Jotedars in the neighbouring districts in British territory. It is very well known that land can be had on very favourable terms in the Bhutan Duars and that many of the subjects of the State who held subordinate rights have found it advantageous to migrate to that part of the Jalpaiguri District. If we fix very high rates the possibility is that many more rayats will leave the State, and

[16]Remarks made by the Dewan in the Revenue Administration Report for 1888-89, para 63.

Rates in the western Duars

there will thus be a great decrease in our revenue. The rates which now prevail in the Duars are the following :—

	Per acre. Rs. A. P.	Per Bigha. Rs. A. P.
Bastu	2 0 0	0 10 8
Rupit or land fit for Haimanti cultivation.	1 8 0	0 8 0
Faringati or corresponding to our *Saiam* and *Chaharam*	1 2 0	0 6 0
Patit	0 3 0	0 1 0

Rates of rent in Patgram and Kazirhat.

"In Pargana Patgram which appertains to His Highness' Chaklajat Estates, the rates at which the last settlement was made are very low. The average rate per Bigha for cultivated and patit lands is only 4 annas and 8 pies. There are different scales of rates for the different Mouzas in Pargana Boda ; those for *Awal* land vary from 9 annas 7 pies to 15 annas 9 pies; those for *Duiam*, from 7 annas 10 pies to 11 annas 9 pies ; those for *Saiam*, from 5 annas 9 pies to 9 annas 9 pies ; and those for *Chaharam* from 3 annas 11 pies to 7 annas 10 pies. The rates for Pargana Baikunthapur are low ; the highest rate for *Awal* land was found to be 11 annas 5 pies in two neighbouring Taluks of the Pargana. In Chakla Kazirhat the rates are rather high ; those for Mauza Ketkibari included in this Pargana are given below :—

	Rs. A. P.
Awal	1 1 8
Duiam	0 15 5
Saiam	0 11 5
Chaharam	0 7 5

"Bhogdabri in Chakla Kazirhat adjoins Hemkumari, which is one of our best Taluks ; the rates which prevail in Bhogdabri are :—

	As. P.
Awal	15 7
Duiam	14 6
Saiam	13 6
Chaharam	12 5

"In Purvabhag the average (*hardara*) rate varies from 5 annas to 12 annas 1 pie. In finding out all the above rates allowances have been made for differences in the standard of measurement.

In Bahirbund.

"In Pargana Bahirbund belonging to Maharani Swarnamayi rents of jotedars are assessed at an average or *hardara* rate for cultivated and patit lands. Babu Kali Kamal Lahiri holds land in this Pargana ; he says that this rate is 1 Rupee per Bigha ;

but then a Bigha in Bahirbund is equal to 1 Bigha $11\frac{1}{4}$ Kattas in this State. The *hardara* rate for a Cooch Behar Bigha, therefore, amounts to 10 annas 4 pies.

"After considering all circumstances I would propose the following rates for cultivated land :—

	First class Taluks.			Second class Taluks.			Third class Taluks.		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Awal	1	0	0	0	14	0	0	13	0
Duiam	0	12	0	0	11	0	0	10	0
Saiam	0	9	0	0	8	0	0	7	0
Chaharam	0	7	0	0	6	0	0	5	0

"It will be observed that the rates for Saiam and Chaharam in third class Taluks are a little lower than those in the old *Nirikhnama*. We know how the changes in the courses of rivers in this State very often bring into existence large tracts of unfertile country in which the rayats can not get good harvests. As the sources of the different streams which intersect the State are not situated at a long distance from Cooch Behar, the deposits left here by these streams are generally sand and do not contain a sufficient admixture of rich alluvial matter. We see this near Patlakhawa, and in Hudumdanga and other Taluks. There are many Chaharam fields in which crops can not be grown every year. These circumstances were not sufficiently considered at the time of the first settlement, and the result was that great hardship was caused in the cases of third class Taluks. I have, therefore, thought it necessary to lower the rates. If an average of the proposed rates be taken, the rate per Bigha of cultivated land exclusive of tobacco land will be found to be 9 annas and 10 pies. But as the number of third class Taluks will be comparatively small, and as the proportion of each class of land is not the same, the actual average rate will be a little higher. The measurement papers of 82 Taluks included in Mekhligunj and of 105 Taluks in Lalbazar are ready. Taking the figures shewn in those papers I find that the average rate will be 10 annas and $1\frac{3}{4}$ pies. It will be safe to take 10 annas as the average rate. The present average rate is 8 annas. There will thus be an increase of 25 percent."[17]

[17] Dewan's Memorandum of rates, paras 51 to 53.

As explained above, for cultivated lands other than tobacco lands, the increase of the rate was exactly 25 per. cent. The rate for tobacco lands was of course higher; but the net profit of the rayats from this crop was proportionally much greater. Moreover there were backward tracts which could not fetch an increase of full 25 per. cent. For instance, the Saiam rate for the third class Taluks, and the Chaharam rate in all the three classes of Taluks were lower than the average old rate of 8 annas. What increase, therefore, the tobacco lands were likely to bring was expected to go to compensate the loss occasioned by the low assessment of the bad soil. It will appear hereafter how this calculation has been strictly verified by the results. As the cultivated lands form by far the greater portion of the assessed area, covering as they do about 67 per. cent. of the assessed land, the ultimate result of assessment depended mainly on the rates fixed for them.

Rates for other lands.

As for the rates for other descriptions of lands, it will be observed that Rs. 4 was fixed for the betelnut lands, while the *Nirikhnama* rate was Rs. 6. The first settlement rate was Rs. 2-8. Although there was an increase on the latter rate it was not high, as the owners of betelnut gardens made a very good profit from the land of this description. The rate of Rs. 3 for Bastu, Udbastu and garden lands was not higher by a full fourth of the first settlement rates. In places near towns and bunders bamboo fetched a good price, and there was no reason for granting a reduction. The old rate of Rs. 1-2 for this kind of land was not, therefore, altered. The uniform rate of eight annas for thatching grass land pressed hard in many places. The growth of this useful grass depended a great deal on the character of the soil. The old rate was therefore, reduced to 7, 6 and 5 annas, for first, second, and third class Taluks, respectively. The old *Nirikhnama* rate for Laik *Patit* land was four annas and six pies; and in the first settlement it was one anna. Though not actually cultivated, these lands were culturable, and there was no doubt they would soon be brought under cultivation. As the re-settlement was going to be concluded for a long term (30 years) the rate for this land was fixed at two annas. Garlaik Patit land, or unculturable waste, justified no increase and none was demanded. At the first settlement, although there was no separate rate for Jalas, such land used to be assessed as cultivated land, and a rate of eight annas was charged on the same. Although the demand for fish had considerably increased, no increase in the rate for Jalas was claimed by the State on the consideration that fish was already dear.

RENT RATES.

Adoption of rent rates.

The rates thus fixed were the *Revenue rates* at which the revenue payable by the jotedars was assessed. The several grades of undertenants were not, however, forgotten, and left to the mercy of their landlords. "In the first settlement," observes Dewan Rai Calica Doss Dutt, Bahadur, C. I. E., "no uniform rates for cultivating rayats were fixed ; all that was done was to fix the rates for jotedars, and to provide that each class of landlords was to obtain 25 per cent. as its share of profit. The result was that the rent demandable from the rayats increased with the number of middlemen. No attempt was ever made to fix the State demand, after deducting the *Malikana* payable to jotedars, and other middlemen, under the principles laid down in Act VIII of 1879 prevailing in Bengal. With the object of checking the further development of sub-infeudation I suggested in 1877 the fixing of a maximum rate for the cultivating rayats. In 1882, His Honor the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal remarked that the above object could be attained if a rule limiting the rent payable by the cultivating rayats to about 35 per cent of the gross produce was passed. But it was explained that the above percentage was very high for Cooch Behar. The great Hindu financier Raja Todarmul fixed a third of the gross produce as the rent payable by the rayat in the time of Emperor Akbar. In the Rent Bill provision was made for fixing the rent at 30 per cent.; but the proposal was ultimately vetoed when the Bengal Tenancy Act was passed. I was fully of opinion that it was advisible to adopt for our new settlement the principle of fixing rates for cultivating rayats, and not to perpetuate the mistake committed before."[18]

Rate for cultivating rayat.

The rent rate of the cultivating rayat was accordingly fixed at a figure varying from 35 to 60 per cent. over and above the rate payable by the jotedar. In many cases the cultivator paid more than 160 per cent. of the jotedar's revenue ; the maximum rent rate was not, therefore, high. These rates were made applicable to the tenancies existing at the time of the re-settlement, and did not bind any lease which might be granted in future. It, however, sometimes happened that in a jote the revenue of which was enhanced the undertenants already paid more than the rent fixed by the re-settlement. To avoid hardship to the jotedar in such a case it was ruled that no reductions in the jama already paid by contract were to be made in cases in which no reductions were granted by the State.

[18] Annual Administration Report, Revenue Department 1888-89 para 58.

Rate for Chukanidar.

The jotedar who was responsible for the State revenue was allowed a profit of 35 per cent. whatever the number of the undertenants was. This means that the Chukanidar's rent rate was fixed at 35 per cent. over the revenue rate. In the majority of cases, however, there were several middlemen between the jotedar and the cultivating rayat. A fixed scale of profits, which varied with their number, was allowed to each of these persons. For instance, where the Darchukanidar was the last in the grade of tenancy a profit of 25 per cent was allowed to the Chukanidar, which, together with the 35 per cent which he paid to the jotedars, made up the 60 per cent of the maximum rent rate. The percentages fixed for other cases was as follows :—

For other grades of under-tenants

Percentages in case in which the Dara-dar-chukanidar is the last undertenant in the scale :—

Jotedar	35
Chukanidar	15
Dar-chukanidar	10

2. Percentages in cases where the Tasya-chukanidar is the last undertenant in the scale :—

Jotedar	35
Chukanidar	10
Dar-chukanidar	10
Dara-dar-chukanidar	5

3. Percentages in cases in which the Tali-chukanidar is the last undertenant in the scale :—

	Rs
Jotedar	35
Chukanidar	10
Darchukanidar	5
Dara-dar-chukanidar	5
Tasya-chukanidar	5

4. Percentages in cases where the Tasya-Tali is the last undertenant :—

	Rs
Jotedar	35
Chukanidar	5
Darchukanidar	5
Dara-dar-chukanidar	5
Tasya-chukanidar	5
Tali-chukanidar	5

It will thus appear that the cultivating rayat, unless he was the Chukanidar, was to pay 60 percent above the revenue rate, and that the middleman or middlemen, whatever be their number, were allowed a fixed profit of 25 percent. Maximum rate for cultivator.

The principles which led to the apportionment of the profit and the high percentage allowed to the Jotedar are thus explained by the Dewan in the administration Report for 1888-89:— Principles guiding apportionment of profit.

"I also thought that the principle of an equal distribution of the profits amongst all classes of tenants and undertenants was not fair. The State revenue was recovered from the jotedar; in cases of default the jote was liable to be sold, and the provisions of the Patta could be at once anulled. The jotedar had often to incur some collection charges, while the Chukanidar generally dwelt near his Chukani, and he himself could collect rents from his undertenants. I have observed that many jotedars experienced difficulty in collecting rents promptly and satisfying the State demand. Under these circumstances it was thought only just to allow the Jotedars to enjoy a higher percentage of profit than Chukanidars and others who happened to be middlemen. I was also of opinion that the percentage should decrease as we went down in the scale of middlemen, the jotedar's percentage remaining unchanged. In the Bhutan Duars the Government do not recognise undertenants below Darchukanidars. But as the rights of such undertenants were recorded here in the course of the last settlement, it was necessary that there should be some rules for apportioning the percentage amongst them.

"In making the above proposals I had to take into special consideration the case of cultivating Chukanidars. The number of these rayats was large; they were paying profit to the jotedars at the rate of 25 percent only, under the rules of the first settlement. It was not thought advisible to raise the percentage at once to 60; some special rule was, therefore, necessary in their case. The Dar-chukanidars were already paying 50 percent over and above the jotedars' rates; they did not require any special treatment. In fixing the maximum rate for the cultivating rayat, the rate at which new rayats obtained settlement from their landlords was fully considered, and it was found that the cultivating rayats would not be worse off if the maximum rates were fixed at 60 percent over the jotedars rate. The parties were, moreover, to be left free as regards future contracts, and no reductions in the jamas already paid by contract were to be made."

The principles followed in fixing the rates for the re-settlement operations may, therefore, be summarised as follows:— Final result.

1. The State fixed the rates at which the revenue payable by the jotedars was assessed.

2. It also fixed the rates at which the existing cultivators had to pay rents, the parties being left free to make their own terms in regard to future contracts.

3. The difference between the rate for the cultivating rayat and for the jotedar was the share of the middlemen and was apportioned under fixed rules, according to the number of such men concerned.

4. Special rule was made for the protection of the cultivating Chukanidars.

II. RATES FOR SPECIAL TRACTS.—REDUCED RATES.

Difference in rates according to locality.

As already observed, at no period in the whole history of the land revenue settlement of the State, the same rate was made applicable to every part of the country alike ; on the other hand a difference was always made in the rate when the tracts under settlement were materially dissimilar to each other. Thus, before the first settlement when three different schedules of rates were in force, the highest rates were in force in Zillah Gitaldah, and the lowest rates were applicable to Girds Chowra and Shandara and Bilat Bishguri, which form the northern, and the eastern part of Parganas Cooch Behar and Tufangunj, respectively. Rates intermediate between these two obtained in the remaining, and by far the greater, portion of the country.

Reduced rates for particular tracts.

At the first settlement there were practically two schedules of rates. The first governed the whole of the State, with the exception of Girds Chowra and Shandara and Bilat Bishguri and the Baishchala jotes. The second was applied to Gird Chowra and Shandara and was a fourth less than the former. The Baishchala jotes are detached pieces of land belonging to the State, situated within the boundaries of Pargana Maraghat in the western Duars of the Jalpaiguri District. They are some 3,000 Bighas in area and are comprised within three Taluks called Gadong, Gosaihat and Magurmari, lying within six or seven miles from the northern frontier of Pargana Mathabhanga. They thus geographically form part of the Duars. The mode of classification and the rates then prevalent in the Western Duars were adopted for them, as shewn below :—

Kind of soil	Rate per Bigha Rs.	A.	P.
Homestead and garden lands	0	5	4
Rupit or Haimanti land	0	5	4
Faringati or cultivated land other than Haimanti land.	0	2	8
Fallow and jungle land	0	0	6

Rates for Chowra and Shandara at re-settlement.

In the course of the re-settlement operations the principle of fixing for Girds Chowra, Shandara and Bilat Bishguri rates lower than those for other places by a fourth was not departed from. The rayats living in these Girds laboured under several disadvantages. Tobacco and jute were not extensively grown in them and the principal crop was only rice. The people were comparatively poor, and there was an absence of well-to-do jotedars in those parts of the country. On the recommendation of the Dewan, therefore, His Highness was pleased to sanction the reduced rates shewn in the table given below. It was, however, declared that the State would not be bound to grant a similar reduction in the rates at any future settlement :—

Rates for Girds Chowra and Shandara and Bilat Bishguri

Kind of Land.	RATES SANCTIONED.		
	First class Taluks.	Second class Taluks.	Third class Taluks.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
1. Betelnut garden ...	3 0 0	3 0 0	3 0 0
2. Bastu	2 4 0	2 4 0	2 4 0
3. Udbastu	2 4 0	2 4 0	2 4 0
4. Garden	2 4 0	2 4 0	2 4 0
5. Bamboo	0 14 0	0 14 0	0 14 0
6. Tobacco first class ...	1 2 0	1 2 0	1 2 0
7. Ditto second class ...	0 15 0	0 15 0	0 15 0
8. Ditto third class ...	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 12 0
9. Awal	0 12 0	0 11 0	0 10 0
10. Duiam	0 9 0	0 8 0	0 7 0
11. Saiam	0 7 0	0 6 0	0 5 0
12. Chaharam	0 5 0	0 4 6	0 4 0
13. *San* or thatching grass land	0 5 0	0 4 6	0 4 0
14. Jala	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 6 0
15. Laik patit	0 2 0	0 2 0	0 2 0
16. Garlaik patit	0 1 0	0 1 0	0 1 0

Rates for Baishchalas.

A new principle was followed in the case of the Baishchala jotes. As the lands belonged to the State it was thought proper to classify them according to the principles governing the classification of all other lands in the State. In consideration, however, of the remoteness of their situation from the frontiers, and also that they had all along paid at very small rates, the lowest schedule of the re-settlement rates for Girds Chowra and Shandara was applied to them. These rates were:—

No.	Class of land	Rate per Bigha. Rs. As. P.
1.	Betelnut garden	3 0 0
2.	Bastu	2 4 0
3.	Udbastu	2 4 0
4.	Garden	2 4 0
5.	Bamboos	0 14 0
6.	Tobacco, 1st class	1 2 0
7.	Ditto 2nd class	0 15 0
8.	Ditto 3rd class	0 12 0
9.	Awal	0 10 0
10.	Duiam	0 7 0
11.	Saiam	0 5 0
12.	Chaharam	0 4 0
13.	*San* or thatching grass land	0 4 0
14.	Jala	0 6 0
15.	Laik patit	0 2 0
16.	Garlaik patit	0 1 0

AREAS GOVERNED BY DIFFERENT SCHEDULES OF RATES.

The total area under re-settlement was 21,23,696 Bighas. The general revenue rates were charged on 18,54,312 Bighas, or 87 percent of these. The reduced rates were applied to the remaining 2,69,384 Bighas, comprised by Girds Chowra and Shandara and Bilat Bishguri, and the Baishchalas, or 13 percent of the entire re-assessed area. The following statement shows what pro-

portions of land comprised in each Pargana were assessed at the general and the reduced rate, respectively:—

NAME OF PARGANA.	Area assessed at the general rates.	Area assessed at the reduced rates.	Percentage (on the total area under re-settlement) of the area assessed at the		Remarks.
			General rates.	Reduced rates.	
Mekhligunj	2,97,265	....	100	.....	
Mathabhanga	3,79,176	2,996 (1)	99·1	·9	(1) Comprised by the Baishchala jotes.
Lalbazar	2,87,802	.....	100	... ..	
Dinhata	3,61,699	.....	00	.....	
Cooch Behar	3,91,694	1,16,920 (2)	77	23	(2) Comprised by Gird Chowra.
Tufangunj	1,36,776	1,49,468 (3)	48	52	(3) Comprised by Gird Shandara and Bilat Bishguri.
Total ...	18,54,312	2,69,384	87	13	

It would be seen that whole of Parganas Mekhligunj, Lalbazar, and Dinhata was assessed at the general rates, while the reduced rates were applied in part to the remaining three Parganas, namely, Mathabhanga, Cooch Behar and Tufangunj. The percentage of the area under reduced rates was the highest in Tufangunj (52 percent) where more than half the lands, namely, those covered by Gird Shandara and Bilat Bishguri, were assessed at these rates; in Cooch Behar it was 23 for Gird Chowra; and the smallest percentage was obtained in Mathabhanga where it attained the nominal figure of ·9, representing the area covered by the Baishchala jotes.

General rates.

The general rates as already noticed contain three descending schedules applicable to three different classes of Taluks. The

following statement shows what extent of lands in each Pargana was covered by each of the different schedules:—

NAME OF PARGANA.	QUANTITY OF LAND TO WHICH IS APPLICABLE THE						*Percentage of land covered by each schedule on the total of land to which the general rates are applicable.*		
	FIRST SCHEDULE.		SECOND SCHEDULE.		THIRD SCHEDULE.				
	No of Taluks.	Quantity of land in Bighas.	No. of Taluks.	Quantity of land in Bighas.	No. of Taluks.	Quantity of land in Bighas.	First Schedule.	Second Schedule.	Third Schedule.
Mekhligunj ...	94	1,15,568	123	1,59,483	8	22,214	39·47	54·47	6·06
Mathabhanga ...	71	1,61,838	111	2,07,355	2	9,983	42·58	54·79	2·63
Lalbazar ...	55	1,20,514	60	1,30,374	16	36,914	41·88	45·29	12·83
Dinhata ...	69	1,36,143	134	1,67,586	53	57,870	37·73	46·42	15·86
Cooch Behar ...	91	1,98,543	130	1,78,701	15	14,450	50·69	45·62	3·69
Tufangunj ...	9	33,895	23	65,649	26	37,232	24·78	47·99	27·23
Total ...	389 (19)	7,66,501	581	9,09,148	120	1,78,663	41·5	49·2	9·3

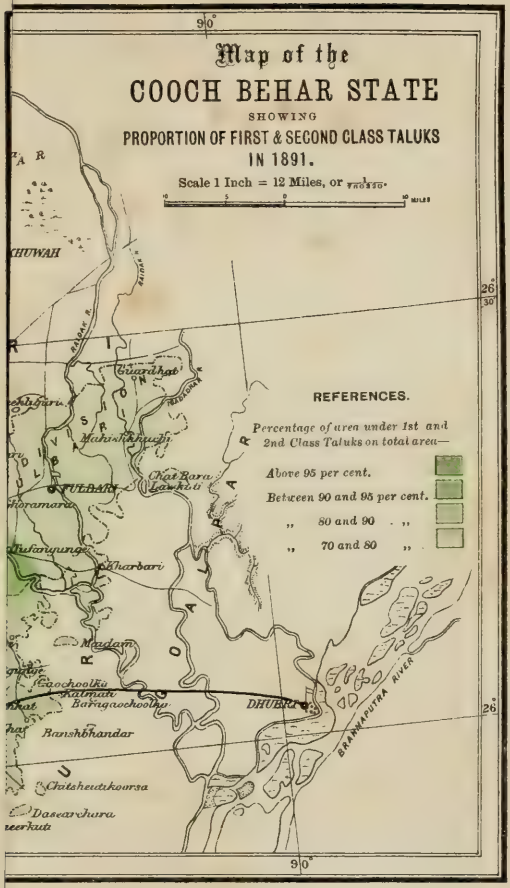
Second schedule governs greater portion of assessed land.

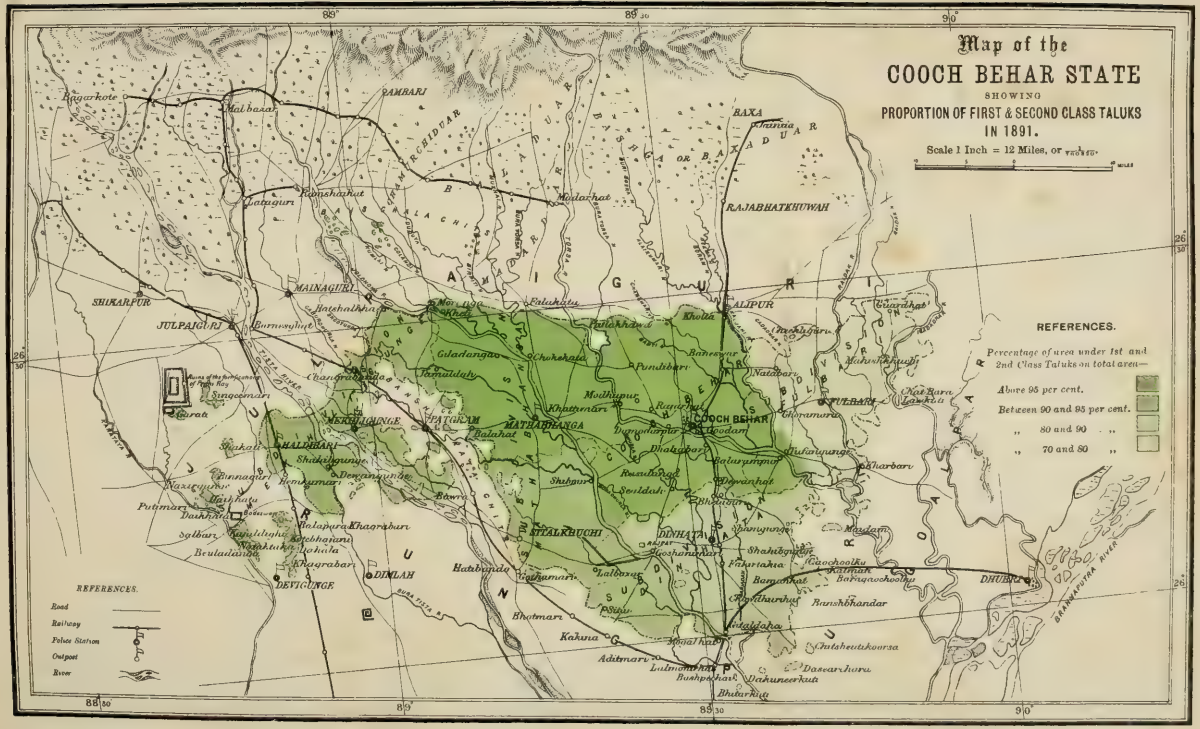
Of the total area of 18,54,312 Bighas governed by the general rates about a half (49·2 percent) was assessed under the second schedule ; and of the remainder, 7,66,501 Bighas, or above 41 per cent had the first schedule applied to them; while the third or lowest schedule was applicable to only 1,78,663 Bighas, or a little more than 9 percent. The second schedule thus governs the greater portion of the re-assessed area. Except in Cooch Behar, where the land under the first schedule exceeds 50 percent, all the Parganas show the largest area covered by the second schedule of the rates, Mekhligunj and Mathabhanga having attained above 54 percent each. The area governed by the first schedule is, as noted above, the largest in Cooch Behar (50·69 percent), and the smallest in Tufangunj, which shows only 24·78 percent. Mathabhanga and Lalbazar are above the average, while Mekhligunj and Dinhata are below it. The largest quantity of land covered by the third schedule lies in Dinhata, and the smallest, in Mathabhanga.

Land under first and

Taking the first and the second schedules of rates together, and they represent the highest rates in the country, the area under them is proportionally the largest in Mathabhanga (97·37 percent)

[19] In the above are not included 18 Taluks, 14 of which are covered by Mokararis in Mekhligunj and Mathabhanga, and three fall within the Shikar Reserve in Bilat Bishguri, and one in the Cooch Behar town, which have not been re-settled. There are some Taluks different portions of which fall under different schedules ; in the case of these, the entire Taluk has been shewn under that schedule which governs the larger portion.


Map of the
COOCH BEHAR STATE
SHOWING
PROPORTION OF FIRST & SECOND CLASS TALUKS
IN 1891.
Scale 1 Inch = 12 Miles, or
REFERENCES.
Percentage of area under 1st and 2nd Class Taluks on total area—
Above 95 per cent.
Between 90 and 95 per cent.
,, 80 and 90 ,,
,, 70 and 80 ,,
KHUWAH
Tufanjung
Kharbari
Madarihat
DHUBRI
BRAHMAPUTRA RIVER
Ranishbhandar
Chatsheutkoorsa
Dasearchara
90°
26°



To face page 566.

and smallest in Tufangunj (72·47 per cent), while the average for the whole State is 90·7 percent. Lalbazar and Dinhata fall below the average, with 87·17, and 84·14 percents, respectively. Mathabhanga and Cooch Behar, therefore, contain the largest proportion of good cultivated lands to which the general rates are applicable. Mekhligunj stands second, followed by Lalbazar which is better off in this respect than Dinhata; and Tufangunj occupies the last place.

second schedules predominate in Mathabhanga and Cooch Behar

In like manner, the reduced rates contain three similar schedules the extent of the application of which will appear from the subjoined table :—

Lands under different schedules of reduced rates.

Name of Pargana.	QUANTITY OF LAND TO WHICH IS APPLICABLE THE						PERCENTAGE OF LAND COVERED BY EACH SCHEDULE TO THE TOTAL OF LAND TO WHICH THE REDUCED RATES ARE APPLICABLE.		
	FIRST SCHEDULE.		SECOND SCHEDULE.		THIRD SCHEDULE.				
	No. of Tuluks.	Quantity of land in Bighas.	No. of Tuluks.	Quantity of land in Bighas.	No. of Tuluks.	Quantity of land in Bighas.	First schedule.	Second schedule.	Third schedule.
Mekhligunj ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mathabhanga ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	2,996	.....	.....	100
Lalbazar ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Dinhata ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cooch Behar ...	13	49,125	18	51,182	6	16,613	42·93	43 92	13·15
Tufangunj ...	13	46,370	13	45,405	28	57,693	30·87	30·20	38·93
Total ...	26 (20)	95,495	31	96,587	37	77,302	35·31	35·68	29·01

As already noticed lands under reduced rates occur only in three of the six Parganas. Mathabhanga contains about 3,000 Bighas of such land, Cooch Behar 1,16,920 Bighas, and Tufangunj, 1,49,468 Bighas. Leaving aside the Baishchala jotes in Mathabhanga to which the third schedule only is applicable, the land under each of the first two schedules forms 35 percent of the entire area governed by the reduced rates. Gird Chowra in Cooch Behar contains only about 16,00 Bighas of land assessed at the third schedule, which forms 13 percent of its total area. In Gird Shandara and Bilat Bishguri in Tufangunj, the land under the third schedule forms about 39 percent of their extent. About 43 percent of the lands of Gird Chowra is covered by the first schedule, and an equal extent by the second; and the two together make up about 87 percent of its total area. This shows how rich this tract of country is, and what excellent paddy lands it possesses.

Lands under first and second schedules predominate in Gird Chowra.

20 *Vide* foot-note 19, page 564.

and smallest in Tufangunj (72·47 per cent), while the average for the whole State is 90·7 percent. Lalbazar and Dinhata fall below the average, with 87·17, and 84·14 percents, respectively. Matha-bhanga and Cooch Behar, therefore, contain the largest proportion of good cultivated lands to which the general rates are applicable. Mekhligunj stands second, followed by Lalbazar which is better off in this respect than Dinhata; and Tufangunj occupies the last place.

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	FIRST SCHEDULE.		SECOND SCHEDULE.		THIRD SCHEDULE.				
	No. of Taluks.	Quantity of land in Bighas.	No. of Taluks.	Quantity of land in Bighas.	No. of Taluks.	Quantity of land in Bighas.	First schedule.	Second schedule.	Third schedule.
Mekhligunj ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mathabhanga ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	2,996	.....	.....	100
Lalbazar ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Dinhata ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cooch Behar ...	13	49,125	18	51,182	6	16,613	42·93	43 92	13·15
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Lands under first and second schedules predominate in Gird Chowra.

20 *Vide* foot-note 19, page 564.

Gird Chowra richer than Shandara.

In Gird Shandara and Bilat Bishguri, the proportion of land under the first schedule is also about the same as that under the second, the percentages being 30·87 and 30·20, respectively. Jointly, the lands assessed at these two schedules form about 61 percent of the entire area. Though the good lands here predominate over the bad, yet taking as a whole these tracts possess less rich soil than their sister district Gird Chowra.

TOWN AND BUNDER RATES.

Muffasil towns and bunders.

The rates given above do not govern the holdings situated in the towns and Bunders of the State. The general rate for muffasil Bunders is Rs. 4 a Bigha. In the case of shops and firms, however, a special enhanced rate of Rs. 80 per Bigha, or four annas per running cubit, is charged for the land making up the front of the holding. The frontage is calculated on the length of the holding on the principal road, with a breadth of 5 kattas or 30 feet. In unimportant and backward places, the rate is sometimes charged on the frontage area of the shop house only. All land in the back of the holding is charged at Rs. 4.

Town of Cooch Behar.

The rates for the town of Cooch Behar, which is the capital of the State and chief centre of trade and commerce, are much higher than the above. There are two rates for ordinary holdings, namely, Rs. 8 and Rs. 6, corresponding with Rs. 4 of the muffasil towns and Bunders. The prevailing frontage rate is Rs. 240 per Bigha, or twelve annas per running cubit. There are certain sites on the most important thoroughfares near the market place where the frontage is chargeable even on dwelling houses ; but as a rule very few live here if it be not for the purpose of carrying on a trade.

Not re-settled.

Of the muffasil towns and Bunders only Mathabhanga and Dinhata were not re-settled. The re-settlement of the town of Cooch Behar also has not been yet taken up.

SECTION II.

General results of Assessment.

In 1773, the year of conclusion of the Treaty with the English, Mr. Purling, Collector of Rangpur, prepared, under orders of the Governor General of India, a Hasabad or account of the public revenue of the State, by which the land revenue was ascertained to be 1,99,120-5-0-15 Narani rupees equivalent to Rs. 1,33,000 in modern currency. Thenceforth under the protection of the British Government the resources of the country were gradually developed, and a century afterwards, on the eve of the first settlement, the land revenue amounted to Rs. 3,64,138-13-8 as detailed below:— Amount of revenue in 1773. Jama before first settlement.

Name of Pargana.	Amount of Land Revenue.								
	Mal.			Debotter.			Total.		
	Rs.	As.	P.	Rs.	As.	P.	Rs.	As.	P.
Mekhligunj ...	52,932	5	2	1,835	12	1	54,768	1	3
Matabhanga...	63,667	8	1	6,979	13	1	70,647	5	2
Lalbazar ...	73,234	6	11	1,241	12	2	74,476	3	1
Dinhata ...	72,282	9	5	4,168	4	2	76,450	13	7
Cooch Behar	59,949	14	5	11,570	8	8	71,520	7	1
Tufangunj ...	13,232	9	6	3,043	6	0	16,275	15	6
Total ...	3,35,299	5	6	28,839	8	2	3,64,138	13	8

It would appear that of the total of Rs. 3,64,138 only a small fraction, namely, Rs. 28,839, represented the Debotter Revenue. Dinhata brought in the largest revenue; Lalbazar came next; Cooch Behar ranked third, and Mathabhanga fourth; Mekhligunj stood fifth; while Tufangunj was the last in the list, bringing in a small revenue of a little over Rs. 16,000. Amount in different Parganas.

The amount of revenue obtained by the first settlement was Rs. 9,38,610-9-10. The increase obtained was thus Revenue obtained by first settlement.

Rs. 5,74,471-12-2, or about 156 per cent of the old revenue. The following statement shows the details for the different Parganas:—

NAME OF PARGANA.	Old Jama.			JAMA OBTAINED BY THE FIRST SETTLEMENT.						*Increase of the first settlement Jama on the old Jama.*			Percentage of the increase.
				Mal.			Debutter.			Total.					
	Rs.	As.	P.	Rs.	As.	P.	Rs.	As.	P.	Rs.	As.	P.	Rs.	As.	P.	
Mekhliganj	54,169	6	0	1,25,995	11	0	3,559	7	9	1,29,555	2	9	75,385	12	9	139
Mathabhanga ...	71,246	0	5	1,59,989	3	7	13,514	6	8	1,72,903	10	3	1,01657	9	10	142
Lalbazar	74,476	3	1	1,31,301	6	5	2,897	0	6	1,34,198	6	10	59,722	3	9	80
Dinhata	76,450	13	7	1,64,465	2	2	9,568	10	2	1,74,033	12	4	97,582	14	9	127
Cooch Behar	71,520	7	1	1,99,439	4	9	32,600	10	0	2,32,039	14	9	1,60,519	7	8	224
Tufanganj ...	16,275	15	6	78,816	12	9	17,061	14	2	95,878	10	11	79,602	11	5	488
Total ...	3,64,138	13	8	8,59,408	8	8	79,202	1	2	9,38,610	9	10	5,74,471	12	2	156

Extent of increase in different Parganas.

It will be seen that Cooch Behar brought in the largest increase, namely, Rs. 1,60,519, and Lalbazar, the smallest, amounting to Rs. 59,722. The percentage of the increase was, however, the largest in Tufangunj where it was so high as 488, and the smallest in Lalbazar, which attained only 80. Cooch Behar obtained an increase of 224 percent; Mathabhanga, 142; and Mekhligunj and Dinhata, 129 and 127, respectively. The reason for this inequality will appear from what is stated below.

Causes which led to the increase.

The increase of Rs. 5,74,472 was not wholly due to the new settlement itself, unaided by collateral circumstances. A large portion of it was attributable to the assessment of fallow land brought under cultivation by the Jotedars, and the resumption and settlement in jote right of invalid rent-free and Mokrari holdings, as well as of service-lands. The table given on next page shows in what proportion these several causes contributed to make up the total increase.

CAUSES OF INCREASE.	AMOUNT OF INCREASE OBTAINED IN PARGANA.						Total of the increase due to each cause.	Percentage of the increase due to each cause on the grand total of the increase.
	Meckligunj	Mathabhanga.	Lalbazar.	Dinhata.	Cooch Behar.	Tufangunj.		
	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	
New cultivation	801 6 11	1,748 0 3	730 3 1	1,784 9 10	2,902 2 6	61,244 12 10	69,211 3 5	12·05
Resumption of Brahmatter	7,070 5 10	8,805 15 8	4,721 14 8	16,847 10 0	22,657 6 11	7,849 12 3	67,953 1 4	11·83
Ditto of Debotter ...	56 13 1	740 1 11	39 5 7	878 13 7	2,152 4 6	817 9 11	4,685 0 7	·81
Ditto of Petbhata ...	... .	470 13 11	69 11 7	1,182 13 11	4,930 8 11	3,627 6 11	10,281 7 3	1·79
Ditto of Pirpal ...	... ...	2 13 2	10 14 6	2 8 0	79 0 0	. . . .	95 3 8	·02
Ditto other rent-free holdings.	... .	58 3 8	1,869 14 11	. . ..	717 11 9	.. ...	2,645 14 4	·47
Ditto Mokarari ...	717 13 0	11,311 0 10	2,448 7 7	2,693 13 9	1,741 8 0	. . . .	18,912 11 2	3·29
Ditto Jaigirs ...	... . .	2,616 12 6	313 2 10	673 10 1	9,234 9 10	1,852 6 7	14,690 9 10	2·55
New settlement ..	66,739 5 11	75,904 11 11	49,518 9 0	73,518 15 7	1,16,104 3 3	4,210 10 11	3,85,996 8 7	67·19
Total ...	75,385 12 9	1,01,657 9 10	59,722 3 9	97,582 14 9	1,60,519 7 8	79,602 11 5	5,74,471 12 2	100·00
Percentage of the increase for each Pargana on the total increase.	13	18	10	17	28	14	100	

A part of the increase independent of the new settlement

It will appear that of the total increase of Rs. 5,74,472, 12·05 percent was due to new cultivation, 28·76 percent, to the resumption and settlement of invalid Lakhiraj, Mokarari and service lands, and the remaining 67·19 percent, to the new settlement. In other words, about 33 per cent. or a third of the total increase was independent of the new settlement, and had no direct connection with the operations. The largest increase attributable to new cultivation, in fact above 80 percent of it, was contributed by Tufangunj, a wild tract where clearance and cultivation had already made much progress. The increase due to the resumption proceedings was the largest in Cooch Behar where the practice of holding rent-free lands on invalid *sunnuds*, or in excess of the grants, had been carried to an excess. "The Brahmins," observes Dewan Rai Calica Doss Dutt Bahadur, C.I.E., "brought to the State by the Raja's ancestors reside in villages situated near the town of Cooch Behar. They and the relatives of the Raja held large quantities of land in excess (*towfeer*) of those originally granted to them in this Pargana; these *towfeer* lands having been resumed, the revenue derived from lands before held as Brahmatra or Petbhata, is larger here than in any other Pargana. Many Brahmins filed forged deeds for supporting their claims to large quantities of land; these claims had necessarily to be rejected. In unjustly attempting to obtain large quantities, some of them have lost all the lands they had. Every consideration has been shewn to Brahmins who did not behave dishonestly, and in some cases their claims have been upheld even when *sunnuds* could not be filed."[21]

Distribution of the increase.

Taking the total increase in relation to the Parganas, 13 percent came from Mekhligunj; 18 percent, from Mathabhanga; 10 percent, from Lalbazar; 17 percent, from Dinhata; 28 percent; from Cooch Behar; and 14 percent, from Tufangunj. The largest proportion of the increase was thus obtained from Cooch Behar, and the smallest from Lalbazar.

It has been noted above that the portion of the increase due to the new settlement formed 67·19 percent of the total. The

[21] First settlement completion Report of Pargana Cooch Behar, para 24.

Increase due to settlement itself.

following statement shows what the proportion of this was to the old revenue in the different Pargana :—

Name of Pargana.	Amount of increase due to the new settlement.	Old jama.	Percentage.
	RS. AS. P.	RS. AS. P.	
Mekhligunj	67,023 6 11	54,768 1 3	122
Mathabhanga	75,620 10 11	70,647 5 2	107
Lalbazar	49,518 9 0	74,476 3 1	67
Dinhata	73,518 15 7	76,450 13 7	96
Cooch Behar	1,16,104 3 3	71,520 7 1	162
Tufangunj	4,210 10 11	16,275 15 6	26
Total ...	3,85,996 8 7	3,64,138 13 8	107

It would be seen that in three of the Parganas, namely, Mekhligunj, Mathabhanga and Cooch Behar, the increase was above 100 percent, it having been so high as 162 percent in Cooch Behar. In the remaining three Parganas it was below 100 percent, Tufangunj attaining only 26 percent. The increase was the largest in Pargana Cooch Behar, and the smallest in Tufangunj. The causes of this increase as well as of the inequality of the same in the different Parganas which were fully explained by the authorities at the time will sufficiently appear from the following extracts from the first settlement reports :—

Chhapasi land in Mekhligunj.

"Prior to the present settlement," observes Mr. Beckett speaking of Mekhligunj, "many persons held large quantities of land without paying the full revenue claimable under the old prevailing rates; it often happened that men who apparently paid revenue for only 50 Bighas held 3 or 4 times that quantity No regular measurements had ever been made; consequently the lax system that prevailed enabled the people to defraud the State of its proper dues. The new settlement has brought the real state of affairs to light, and the revenue has increased almost entirely on this ground although the rates are actually less than the old prevailing rates of the State."[22]

[22] First settlement report for Pargana Mekhligunj, para 74.

"This (in Tufangunj) is a large increase and much more than was obtained in the Mekhligunj Pargana; this arises from the fact that a large number of influential men got lands in this part of the State for which they paid only nominal rents; the lands of this Pargana lie a long distance from the Head quarters, in the jungly portion of the State and under the "*laissez fairi*" rule that obtained under the native rulers, the holders managed to conceal the fact that they were holding lands at rents much below what they ought to have paid, and also in much larger areas than they were supposed to do, thus defrauding the State of its proper dues. This was only brought to light when the settlement operations commenced in this Pargana. The increase falls in fact for the most part on the middlemen who have been for so long defrauding the State; for instance one jotedar used to pay to the State only Rs. 30-11-5 for land from which he used to recover Rs. 419-5 from his undertenants; and this is not a solitary instance. There are numbers of other similar cases. In the instance cited the jotedar recovered 14 times the jama he himself paid to the State, so the increase of only 3¼th times the jama arising to the State from the new settlement is easily accounted for when several cases similar to the one cited above are thrown into the scale; so although the increase is high now it shows what large sums the State has been defrauded of up to the present time from this portion of the property." [23] Nominal rents paid in Tufangunj.

The circumstances which led to the increase in Mathabhanga were identical with those in Mekhligunj.

"If the abuses", notices Dewan Rai Calica Doss Dutt Bahadur in his report for Lalbazar "which prevailed before, and the various ways in which the State was defrauded of its just demands under the old regime, as described in previous reports be taken into consideration, the above rate of increase will appear small. The result is explained by the circumstance of Lalbazar having attracted the special attention of the officers of the State and the Ijardars from a long time, on account of its having been the tobacco growing tract in the State. The tobacco fields were known to be very valuable, and the State could not be defrauded to the same extent as in the other Parganas. The number of resident and cultivating jotedars in Lalbazar is also larger than those in the other Parganas; those men mostly paid the just dues of the State. For the above reasons the rate of incidence of revenue under the old system was not as low as in Mekhligunj, Mathabhanga or Tufangunj." [24] Lalbazar had been fairly assessed.

[23] First settlement report for Pargana Tufangunj, para 13.

[24] First settlement report for Pargana Lalbazar, para 31.

Dinhata had been fairly assessed.

"This percentage (in Dinhata) is less than that obtained in any other Pargana excepting Lalbazar. Dinhata being thickly peopled, land has more value here than in Mekhligunj, Mathabhanga, Tufangunj or Cooch Behar. The rent paid before was not, therefore, so low as that in any one of these Parganas. The case of Lalbazar is exceptional on account of its tobacco fields as has already been pointed out in the report of that Pargana."[25]

Largest increase in Cooch Behar.

"The rate of increase obtained above (for Cooch Behar) is higher than that in any other Pargana, with the exception of Tufangunj, which is the most backward Pargana in the State, as already explained in the Tufangunj report. Pargana Cooch Behar borders on the Duars ; it has got no tobacco fields like Lalbazar or Mathabhanga, and is not thickly populated, or situated near an old district like Dinhata, or Mekhligunj ; it has got large quantities of land lately brought under cultivation. Besides these reasons there is another which explains why the rate of increase is large here. Persons possessing influence at the Durbar, including ladies of the palace, always managed to pay low rents ; even the Raja himself did not often like to press his just claims against them. Many of their jotes were situated in this Pargana, not very far from the town. In the case of all such jotes the rate of increase has necessarily been high. The rates at which the settlement has been concluded are low ; the increase in the demand simply shows the extent to which the State was defranded of its just dues under the old regime."[26]

Net enhancement payable by jotedars.

The increase referred to above, which was no doubt due to the new settlement, did not, however, represent the amount which the jotedars had actually to pay over and above their old liability on account of revenue. Before the year 1872 they had to pay to the Ijardars two cesses called *Ijardari* and *Saranjami* amounting to a sixth of their jama. This had of course to be paid in addition to the fixed revenue. Practically, therefore, the amount of revenue payable by the jotedars was the jama of the jote increased by a sixth of the same on account of cesses. After the settlement the revenue was realised by the State officers, and the jotedars had to pay nothing by way of *Ijardari* and *Saranjami*. To arrive at the increase which actually devolved upon the jotedars it is, therefore, necessary to deduct a sixth of the old jama from the increase brought in by the settlement. The balance would represent what

[25] First settlement report for Dinhata, para 17.

[26] First settlement report for Cooch Behar, para 21.

they had to pay in excess of their old liability. At this rate the percentage of the increase would be smaller as is shewn below :— Net increase after deduction of *Ijardari* and *Sayanjami* charges

NAME OF PARGANA.	Old jama.	*Increase obtained by deducting a sixth of the old jama from the increase due to the new settlement.*			Percentage.
		Increase due to the new settlement.	A sixth of the old jama.	Net increase.	
Mekhligunj	54,768	67,023	9,128	57,895	90
Mathabhanga ...	70,647	75,621	11,775	63,846	77
Lalbazar	74,476	49,519	12,412	37,107	40
Dinhata	76,451	73,519	12,741	60,778	69
Cooch Behar ...	71,520	1,16,104	11,920	1,04,184	124
Tufangunj	16,276	4,211	2,713	1,498	8
Total ...	3,64,138	3,85,997	60,689	3,25,308	76

Thus, after the deduction of a sixth of the old jama from the increase, a sum of Rs. 3,25,308 is found to be the net enhancement which the jotedars had to pay on account of the new settlement. This formed 76 per cent. of the old jama.

The increase obtained by the settlement was not, however, charged at once. For the convenience of the rayats the jama was made progressive; a fifth of the increase was added to the old jama every year until the maximum jama was reached in the fifth year. Increase distributed over five years.

The gross increase of revenue obtained by the assessment of *patit* lands in the course of the Patit Charcha operations was about Rs 71,000. On the other hand some reductions of jama had to be granted for diluvion which had taken place since 1872, and the extent of which was ascertained during those operations. Abatements had also to be granted in the first settlement jama of a number of jotes in places in which it had been found pressing owing to the bad condition of the soil. After allowing these deductions, the balance which represented the net Patit Charcha increase amounted to about Rs. 60,000. This together with the revenue fixed by the first settlement would give a total of Rs. 9,83,839 which would have been the amount of land revenue on the eve of the re-settlement,[22] that is, in the year 1295 B.E., if there were no other circumstances to interfere with the result. Total revenue after the Patit Churcha Settlement.

[22] The first settlement jama for the whole State was Rs. 9,38,611. The revenue due from the Cooch Behar town, which was not re-settled, was

Decrease in revenue after first settlement

In the meantime, however, new settlement of khas lands had been going on which brought in additional revenue. On the other hand reductions of jama had to be granted year after year for the resumption of lands for public purposes and for diluvion and relinquishment of jotes. The decrease which annually took place in the revenue owing to these causes was not fully made up by the increase obtained every year, but a net deficit almost always occurred by the adjustment of these annual enhancements and reductions. This result was inevitable and took place in the ordinary course of things. With the increased demand for communication, a large quantity of land had to be taken up for the construction of roads after the first settlement which caused a permanent loss of revenue. The deterioration of the soil by the deposit of sands brought in by the floods in some parts of the State, referred to in a previous chapter, and the rather heavy relinquishments of jotes which followed it, were also responsible for a further reduction of revenue, which was not of a temporary nature. In many places the rivers annually washed away good cultivated lands, necessitating reductions of the jama at high rates. Although a portion of this loss was made up by the settlement of *char* lands, the amount of reduction for diluvion was never fully reached by the revenue secured by the settlement of the accretions, which could be assessed only at the *patit* rate. The reductions granted for diluvion thus on the whole caused a net decrease of revenue. The result of the combined operations of all these causes was that on the eve of the re-settlement the land revenue of the State, with the exception of the Mokararis, the town of Cooch Behar and the sub-divisional stations of Mathabhanga and Dinhata, as well as some *char* lands of the Tista the jamas of which were not revised, amounted to Rs. 9,52,642. The causes referred to above had thus led to a decrease of about Rs. 31,000 in the revenue obtained by the first and the Patit Charcha settlement. The re-settlement operations just then undertaken succeeded in putting a stop to this slow but steady falling off of revenue, and also in securing a fair increase.

Increase obtained by re-settlement.

The revenue just before the re-settlement amounted to Rs. 9,52,642, as noticed above. The re-settlement jama was Rs. 12,41,060. The increase obtained by this revision of the settlement therefore amounted to Rs. 2 ,88,418, or 30 per cent of the former revenue. The details of the re-assessment are given on the next page.

Rs, 7,584, and the jamas fetched by the Mokarari mehals, which are exempted from enhancement, amount to Rs. 7,188. If these be deducted from the total revenue, the balance amounting to Rs. 9,23,839, would represent the first settlement jama due upon the area under re-settlement. This together with Rs. 60,000, gives Rs. 9,83,839, as the total of revenue at the close of the Patit Churcha operations.

A comparative statemement showing the old and re-settlement jamas of the tracts subjected to re-assessment, together with the increase obtained at the re-settlement, and the percentage of the increase.

NAME OF PARGANA.	FIRST SETTLEMENT JAMA. (Including Patit Churcha increase.)			RE-SETTLEMENT JAMA.			INCREASE AT RE-SETTLEMENT.			Percentage.		
	Mal.	Debutter.	Total.	Mal.	Debutter.	Total.	Mal.	Debutter.	Total.	Mal.	Debutter.	Total.
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs			
Mekhligunj...	1,27,943	5,985	1,33,928	1,67,486	7,984	1,75,470	39,543	1,999	41,542	30	33	31
Mathabhanga	1,65,523	15,010	1,80,533	2,18,278	20,701	2,38,979	52,755	5,691	58,446	31	37	32
Lalbazar ...	1,37,964	3,142	1,41,106	1,76,808	4,368	1,81,176	38,844	1,226	40,070	28	37	29
Dinhata ...	1,67,771	10,081	1,77,852	2,25,877	12,928	2,38,805	58,103	2,847	60,953	34	29	34
Cooch Behar	1,91,391	34,776	2,26,167	2,40,864	41,692	2,82,556	49,473	6,916	56,389	25	19	24
Tufangunj ...	76,296	16,760	93,056	1,03,460	20,614	1,24,074	27,164	3,854	31,018	35	23	33
Total ...	8,66,888	85,754	9,52,642	11,32,773	1,08,287	12,41,060	2,65,885	22,533	2,88,418	30	26	30

Increase unequal in Mal and Debotter Mehals.

It would be seen that the increase was not uniform everywhere, or in every mehal. In Mathabhanga, Mekhligunj and Lalbazar the proportion of increase in the Debotter mehals exceeded that in the Mal mehals, while in the remaining three Parganas, the case was exactly the reverse. The Debotter jotes in the first three Parganas are situated in rich tracts, and thus fetched better jamas than the average Mal jote. In the remaining three Parganas the Mal mehals possess better soil than the Debotter mehals. This fact accounts for the inequality of the percentage of the increase in respect of these two mehals.

Rate of increase in different Parganas.

As for the total increase, it amounted to 31 percent in Mekhligunj, 32 percent in Mathabhanga, 29 percent in Lalbazar, 34 percent in Dinhata, 24 percent in Cooch Behar, and 33 percent in Tufangunj. The largest percentage was thus attained in Dinhata and the smallest in Cooch Behar. Dinhata was at one time the most prosperous part of the country. By the census of 1891 it was ascertained to be still the most thickly populated district in the whole State. The classification of the soil here has also been a little high. These facts go to a great extent to account for the large increase attained in Dinhata. The soil of Cooch Behar does not compare favourably with that of other Parganas. Hence the increase here was proportionately the smallest. The total increase comes up to 30 percent for the whole State. The settlement has been concluded for 30 years during which period the State will not claim any enhancement. The records of the past show that the State has done a good deal for the improvement of its people in various ways. It has established a large number of schools in the interior and a first grade College at the capital of the State. There are charitable dispensaries and hospitals in every part of the State. The country abounds in markets and Bunders. The value of produce has largely increased everywhere. The whole country has been opened up by roads and railways. For all these benefits obtained the people do not pay any tax. Taking all these facts into consideration it must be conceded that the increase is by no means inordinately high.

Rates not high for jotedars.

For the jotedars who cultivate their own lands there is a very large margin of profit from the produce of the soil. The jotedars who have, on the other hand, leased out their lands to undertenants are also better off after the new settlement than they were before. Under the new rules they obtain from the undertenants 35 percent of the revenue fixed for them, when they could get only 25 percent under the old system. Thus although they have to pay an increase on their old revenue they have come to share an increased profit also.

Cultivating Chukanidar

The Chukanidar now pays 35 percent over the jotedar's jama, against 25 percent of old. For the cultivating Chukanidar this is by no means hard, there being a good margin for his profit from the produce of his fields. Moreover, in many cases the old jama paid by him is higher than the re-settlement jama and he has been put to no special difficulty by the new rules.

Other under-tenants.

But for those that have leased out the land, the terms are less easy, they getting a profit varying from 25 to 5 per cent., according as there are one or more grades of undertenants below them. The terms have been intentionally made difficult with the object of discouraging sub-infeudation, which has, as already noticed, been carried to a rather undue excess.

Andaran profit.

There are some jotes which formerly belonged to the ladies of the palace and were resumed by the State which granted monthly allowance to the holders thereof in lieu of the profits hitherto enjoyed by them from those jotes. These jotes are called *Andaran Bajeyapti* jotes. After their resumption they were settled with the Chukanidars in jote right at the jamas that these men used to pay to the ladies. This course was necessary because the State had to pay to the ladies the full amount of profit the latter had previously enjoyed. The new set of jotedars thus created differed from others of their class in this respect that they had to pay on account of State revenue an amount which was twenty-five percent in excess of the jama assessed according to the revenue rates. At the time of the re-settlement the excess revenue was 35 percent more than the assessed. As far as the revenue is concerned these men stand on the same footing as the Chukanidars under ordinary jotes. Each grade of under-tenant in an *Andaran* jote corresponds to the rayat of the next lower grade in an ordinary one in respect of the rental payable by him. For instance, a Chukanidar in a jote of the first kind pays a jama which is payable by a Durchukanidar in one of the second description, and so on down to the last grade.

APPLIED RATES.

Applied rates or average revenue per Bigha in different Parganas.

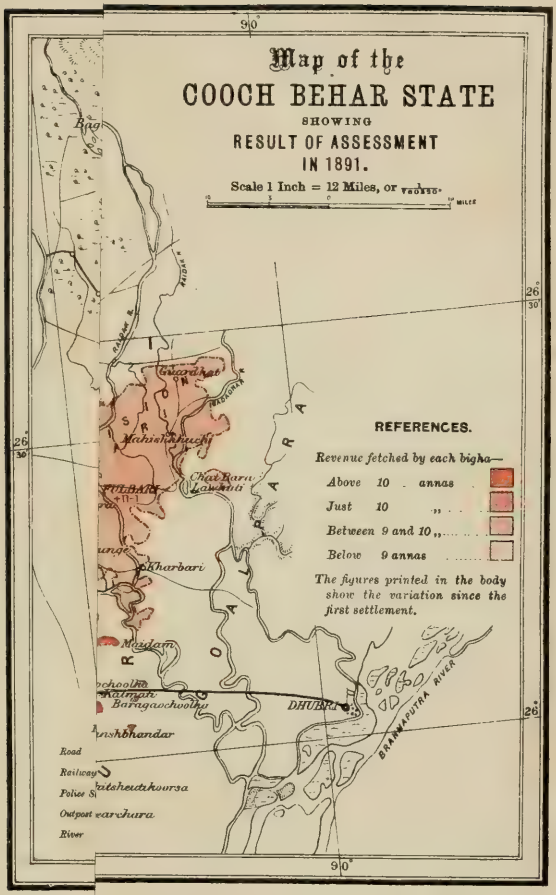
A short account of the rates has already appeared in the foregoing chapter. The rates given there are those that were applicable to different descriptions of land. The practical application of those rates gives a result which is not the same in every Pargana. The amount of revenue obtained for each Pargana, when applied to the total of the assessed area in it, gives the average revenue for each Bigha of land for that portion of the country, which, as can be expected, does not agree with that similarly arrived at

in another. The following statement shows how these applied rates, or the average amounts of revenue assessed on each Bigha, stand in the different Parganas :—

NAME OF PARGANA.	FIRST SETTLEMENT.			RE-SETTLEMENT.			Variation at the re-settlement.
	Extent of assessed land.	Amount of revenue.	Applied rate or amount of revenue per Bigha.	Extent of assessed land	Amount of revenue.	Applied rate or amount of revenue per Bigha.	
	Bighas.	Rs.	Rs. As. P.	Bighas.	Rs.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.
Mekhligunj ...	2,99,789	1,21,982	0 6 8	2,97,265	1,75,470	0 9 5	+ 2 9
Mathabhanga ...	3,89,460	1,71,672	0 7 0	3,82,172	2,38,979	0 10 0	+ 3 0
Lalbazar ...	2,93,584	1,31,054	0 7 3	2,87,802	1,81,176	0 10 0	+ 2 9
Dinhata ...	3,68,101	1,73,338	0 7 7	3,61,660	2,38,805	0 10 6	+ 2 11
Cooch Behar ...	5,24,917	2,23,910	0 6 10	5,08,614	2,82,556	0 8 10	+ 2 0
Tufangunj ...	2,89,768	95,879	0 5 3	2,86,244	1,24,074	0 6 11	+ 1 8
Total ...	21,65,619	9,23,835	0 6 9	21,23,697	12,41,060	0 9 4	+ 2 7

Compared with first settlement.

The revenue on each Bigha of assessed land, or the applied rate, amounted to 6 annas and 9 pies for the whole State at the time of the first settlement. The re-settlement has fixed the same at 9 annas and 4 pies, giving an increase of 2 annas and 7 pies. It was the highest in Dinhata and lowest in Tufangunj at both the settlements. At the first settlement the applied rate in Dinhata was 7 annas and 7 pies ; in Lalbazar, 7 annas and 3 pies ; in Mathabhanga, 7 annas ; in Cooch Behar, 6 annas and 10 pies; in Mekhligunj, 6 annas and 8 pies ; and in Tufangunj, 5 annas and 3 pies. There has been an increase of the rate everywhere at the re-settlement; Dinhata attaining 10 annas and 6 pies; Mathabhanga and Lalbazar 10 annas each; Mekhligunj 9 annas and 5 pies; Cooch Behar 8 annas and 10 pies; and Tufangunj 6 annas and 11 pies. The highest increase was obtained in Mathabhanga (3 annas); next comes Dinhata with 2 annas and 11 pies, followed by Mekhligunj and Lalbazar with 2 annas and 9 pies each; and Cooch Behar stands fourth with 2 annas ; Tufangunj ranks last with an increase of one anna and 8 pies.


Map of the
COOCH BEHAR STATE
SHOWING
RESULT OF ASSESSMENT
IN 1891.
Scale 1 Inch = 12 Miles, or 1/760320
REFERENCES.
Revenue fetched by each bigha—
Above 10 annas
Just 10 ,,
Between 9 and 10 ,,
Below 9 annas
The figures printed in the body show the variation since the first settlement.
Guardhat
Mahishkuchi
Chak Barni Lakshmi
Kharbari
Mogdam
Barnagachoolha
DHUBRI
BRAHMAPUTRA RIVER
Road
Railway
Police Station
Outpost
River
26° 30'
90°

To face p


Map of the
COOCH BEHAR STATE
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RESULT OF ASSESSMENT
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Scale 1 Inch = 12 Miles, or
REFERENCES.
Revenue fetched by each bigha—
Above 10 annas
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The figures printed in the body show the variation since the first settlement.
REFERENCES
Road
Railway
Police Station
Outpost
River
COOCH BEHAR
DINHATA
TUFANGANJ
MEKHLIGUNGE
PATLAKHAWA
MATHABHANGA
SITALKUCHI
DEVIGUNGE
DIMLAH
HALDIBARI
SHIKARPUR
JULPAIGURI
MAINAGURI
ALIPUR
RAJABHATKHUWAH
DHUBRI
BRAHMAPUTRA RIVER
RAMBARI
RAXA
Rajarkote
Malbazar
Ramshahat
Lataguri
Modarhat
Gitaldaha
Chukchuki
Pundibari
Natibari
Khagrabari
Dinhata
Sitalkuchi
Tufanganj
Mekhligunge
Patlakhawa
Mathabhanga
Kharbari
Dhubri
Bilasipara
Gauripur
Goalpara
Kakina
Bhotmari
Hatibandha
Dewanhat
Jaldhaka
Mogalhat
Dasgaradura
Bhatarkuti
Bushpachari
Lutmohmmad
Addinari
Ranishbandar
Bamanhat
Shahibganj
Pakriakasa
Kumargram
Mainam
Jhalong
Kalsindi
Kalchinikhata
Kalchinikhata
Kalchinikhata

Average jama of a jote.

The amount of revenue charged on a jote, on an average, was Rs. 56-7-6 at the first settlement; it came up to Rs. 65-14-1 at the re-settlement, showing an increase of Rs. 9-6-7. The details for the different Parganas are given below:—

NAME OF PARGANA.	THE AVERAGE OF						Variation.			
	First settlement.			Re-settlement.						
	Rs.	As.	P.	Rs.	As.	P.		Rs.	As.	P.
Mekhligunj	70	1	5	75	9	7	+	5	8	2
Mathabhanga	75	6	8	94	7	9	+	19	1	1
Lalbazar	53	6	6	69	9	1	+	16	2	7
Dinhata	46	9	5	60	0	0	+	13	6	7
Cooch Behar	46	2	6	52	15	1	+	6	12	7
Tufangunj	78	10	5	60	1	3	−	18	9	2
Total ...	56	7	6	65	14	1	+	9	6	7

As could be expected, the jama of a jote rose everywhere except in Tufangunj, where it came down from Rs. 78-10-5 to Rs. 60-1-3, marking a decrease of Rs. of Rs. 18-9-2. Although the average area of a jote fell off in every Pargana at the later settlement the decrease in Tufangunj was the highest, having come down from 237 Bighas to 138 Bighas. This fact accounts for the decrease of the jama in this Pargana. The highest average jama now fetched by a jote is Rs. 94 in Mathabhanga, and the smallest, Rs. 53 in Cooch Behar.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE INCREASE.

When maximum increase was reached in different Parganas.

To avoid the hardship of a sudden increase of the full 30 percent obtained by the re-settlement, it was ordered by His Highness the Maharaja Bhup Bahadur in Council, that except where the amount was small, not exceeding 20 percent of the former revenue, the re-settlement increase was to be charged progressively in five years, a fifth of the amount being added to the old jama every year until the maximum was reached. As already noticed, the re-settlement began to have effect from 1296 B. E., corresponding with 1889-1890, in Lalbazar and Mekhligunj; the maximum

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	First settlement.			Re-settlement.						
	RS.	AS.	P.	RS.	AS.	P.		RS.	AS.	P.
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of the enhanced jama was therefore reached in those parts of the country in 1300 B. E., corresponding with 1893-1894. In the remaining Parganas, the increase was charged from 1297 B. E., or 1890-1891, and the full limit was obtained in 1301 B. E, corresponding with 1894-1895. The re-settlement of the entire area covered by three of the above Parganas, namely, Mathabhanga, Cooch Behar and Tufangunj, was not, however, concluded from the same year; but it had to be deferred in some portions of them, such as the Baishchala jotes in Mathabhanga, a part of Gird Chowra in Cooch Behar, and Gird Shandara in Tufangunj, till 1301 B. E. The increased jama obtained from these last named tracts was therefore charged from 1301 B. E., the maximum of which was reached in 1305 B. E., corresponding with 1898-1899. Again, the re-settlement was concluded in the remaining portion of Gird Chowra, and in Bilat Bishguri in Tufangunj, as well as in some isolated jotes of Mekhligunj and Dinhata, from 1306; and in these cases the full jama will be obtained in 1310 B. E., corresponding with 1903-1904. Each of the fifteen years, from 1296 to 1310 B. E., therefore, shows a gradually rising scale of revenue, as fixed by the re-settlement of the State. The figure for the last of these years, which is Rs. 12,41,060, represents the total jama secured by the general re-settlement of the country.

The table given on the following page shows the amount of the re-settlement jama recoverable in each of the years noted above.

A statement showing the progressive jamas of re-settlement due in each of the 15 years from 1296 B. E. to 1310 B. E. (1889-90 to 1903-4).

NAME OF PARGANA.	Old Jama in 1295 B.E. (1888-89)	RE-SETTLEMENT JAMA CHARGED IN THE YEAR														
		1296 B. E. (1889-90)	1297 B. E. (1890-91)	1298 B. E. (1891-92)	1299 B. E. (1892-93)	1300 B. E. (1893-94)	1301 B. E. (1894-95)	1302 B. E. (1895-96)	1303 B. E. (1896-97)	1304 B. E. (1897-98)	1305 B. E. (1898-99)	1306 B. E. (1899-1900)	1307 B. E. (1900-1901)	1308 B. E. (1901-2)	1309 B. E. (1902-3)	1310 B. E. (1903-4)
Mekhligunj ...	1,33,928	1,43,891	1,50,906	1,57,906	1,66,691	1,75,318	1,75,318	1,75,318	1,75,318	1,75,318	1,75,318	1,75,308	1,75,348	1,75,389	1,75,429	1,75,470
Mathabhanga	1,80,533	1,80,533	1,94,734	2,04,037	2,16,926	2,25,812	2,38,539	2,38,643	2,38,727	2,38,811	2,38,895	2,38,878	2,38,978	2,38,978	2,38,978	2,38,979
Lalbazar ...	1,41,106	1,50,517	1,58,147	1,65,759	1,73,378	1,81,176	1,81,176	1,81,176	1,81,176	1,81,176	1,81,176	1,81,176	1,81,176	1,81,176	1,81,176	1,81,176
Dinhata ...	1,77,852	1,77,852	1,93,933	2,04,300	2,15,200	2,27,224	2,38,293	2,38,293	2,38,293	2,38,293	2,38,396	2,38,498	2,38,600	2,38,703	2,38,805	2,38,805
Cooch Behar	2,26,167	2,26,167	2,34,018	2,43,451	2,52,723	2,62,458	2,73,433	2,74,496	2,75,655	2,76,781	2,77,902	2,79,697	2,80,412	2,81,126	2,81,841	2,82,556
Tufangunj ...	93,056	93,056	97,318	1,00,226	1,03,163	1,06,201	1,11,119	1,12,706	1,14,049	1,15,292	1,16,738	1,18,514	1,19,903	1,21,292	1,22,682	1,24,074
Total ..	9,52,642	9,72,016	10,29,056	10,75,679	11,28,081	11,78,189	12,17,878	12,20,632	12,23,228	12,25,671	12,28,425	12,32,171	12,34,417	12,36,664	12,38,911	12,41,060 *

* The jama on the eve of the re-settlement, in 1295 B. E., amounted to Rs. 9,52,642 ; the maximum re-settlement jama which will be due in 1310 B. E. is Rs. 12,41,060 ; the re-settlement increase is Rs. 2,88,418.

SECTION III.

Term of Settlement.

Short term settlements in old times.

In very early times short term settlements of land revenue were more the rule than the exception. From before the introduction of the Ijardari system till the beginning of the nineteenth century, the settlements used to be made annually. Mr. Ahmuty was the first to raise his voice against the evils of annual settlements, as has already been noticed,[20] and he succeeded in making them quinquennial.

Term of first settlement

The first regular settlement of the State was originally concluded for 13 years. This term, however, could not be made uniform in every part of the country. Rahimgunj was settled at first for 8 years, and then again for another such term. The settlement of Mekhligunj had effect for 12 years, that of Mathabhanga and Cooch Behar from 9 to 13 years in different places, and of Lalbazar and Dinhata from 9 to 12 years; while the term of settlement of Tufangunj was 11 years in some Taluks and 10 years in others. This term expired every where in 1290 B. E., which had been originally calculated to fall after 3 years of the attainment of majority by His Highness, so that the new regime might have some time to arrive at its conclusions regarding a general resettlement of the State. But His Highness' installation did not take place at the time originally contemplated, and was delayed three years. The term of the settlement thus expired in the very year that His Highness assumed charge of the management of the State, namely, 1290 B. E.

Extension of the term.

After the installation, however, His Highness the Maharaja Bhup Bahadur was pleased to extend the term for 5 years more, so that it was to expire with 1295 B.E. The people had therefore the benefit of the first settlement for about 17 years, if the fact of the assessment of patit lands effected in the mean time be left out of account.

Term of re-settlement

At the re-settlement the term was fixed at 30 years on the recommendation of the Dewan Rai Calica Doss Dutt Bahadur C.I.E. "The next settlement," to quote his words, "should be concluded for a long period. This is very necessary in the interest of the subjects of the State. My proposal is that the period of the settlement be fixed at 30 years. It is a long settlement only that can increase the value of the landed property, and cause further improvement in the condition of the people. I must state that, notwithstanding the attempts hitherto made for securing their welfare, the subjects of His Highness are not in a very prosperous

[20] *Vide ante*, pages 475-76.

condition. In considering proposals for a new settlement this fact should not be lost sight of".[21]

Mekhligunj and Lalbazar.

As already noticed the country was open to re-settlement from 1296 B. E. But the papers of Parganas Mekhligunj and Lalbazar only, where opertions had commenced first of all, could be made ready before that year. These were the only tracts where the re-settlement took effect from 1296 B. E. The remaining four Parganas were re-settled from the beginning of the next year. All these Parganas were, however, re-settled for 30 years; the term will thus expire in Mekhligunj and Lalbazar in 1325 B.E., and in the remaining Parganas in 1326 B. E.

Particular tracts.

With the exception of Lalbazar no other Pargana was fully re-settled for the same period. For instance, although the re-settlement of Mekhligunj had effect from 1296, some parts of Taluk Daikhata were re-settled from 1306 B. E. only. In like manner a part of Gird Chowra in Pargana Cooch Behar and the whole of Gird Shandara in Pargana Tufangunj were settled from 1301 ; the Baishchala jotes in Pargana Mathabhanga, from 1302 B. E.; Taluk Jari Dharla Nadi in Pargana Dinhata from 1305; and Bilat Bishguri in Tufanfunj, and some Taluks in the west of Gird Chowra from 1306 B.E. The circumstances which had led to postponement of re-settlement in those tracts have already been noticed in a previous chapter. In all these cases, however, the term will expire in 1326 B. E.

[21] Dewan's Memorandum on the Re-settlement Rates, para 17.

Terms of re-settlement of different Parganas and tracts

The following statement shows at a glance what the re-settlement terms are in the different Parganas and tracts:—

NAME OF PARGANA.	Name of tract.	PERIOD OF THE RE-SETTLEMENT.			Remarks.
		Year of commencement.	Year of termination.	Length of the term.	
Mekhligunj ...	.....	1296 B. E. (1889-90)	1325 B. E. (1918-19)	30 years	
Ditto	Taluk* Daikhata	1306 B. E. (1899-1900)	1326 B. E. (1919-20)	21 years	* The tract comprised by the jote bearing settlement No. 1 which took up the bulk of the Taluk.
Mathabhanga ...	...	1297 B. E. (1890-91)	1326 B. E. (1919-20)	30 years	
Ditto	The Baishchala jotes in Maraghat.	1302 B. E. (1895-96)	1326 B. E.	25 years	
Lalbazar	...	1296 B. E. (1889-90)	1325 B. E. (1918-19)	30 years	
Dinhata	...	1297 B. E. (1890-91)	1326 B. E.	30 years	
Ditto	Taluk Jari Dharla Nadi.	1305 B. E. (1898-99)	1326 B. E.	22 years	
Cooch Behar ..	.....	1297 B. E. (1890-91)	1326 B. E.	30 years	
Ditto	Eastern part of Gird Chowra.	1301 B. E. (1894-95)	1326 B. E.	26 years	29 Taluks
Ditto	Western part of Gird Chowra.	1306 B. E. (1899-1900)	1326 B. E.	21 years	9 Taluks
Tufangunj .	...	1297 B. E. (1890-91)	1326 B. E.	30 years	
Ditto . ..	Gird Shandara	1301 B. E. (1894-95)	1326 B. E.	26 years	28 Taluks
Ditto	Bilat Bishguri	1306 B. E. (1899-1900)	1326 B. E.	21 years	29 Taluks

Towns and *char-lands*.

There is a special term for the settlement of *char* lands and town holdings. This never exceeds ten years, but may be shorter than that.

Term of *interi* settlements.

The term of a general settlement of the State marks a period within the limits of which all settlements of khas lands made subsequent to it are to be confined, and it is not the rule to conclude a settlement which will remain in force after the period of the last general settlement has expired. The object of this rule is that the whole of the State, or at least the whole of a Pargana may be open to re-settlement from one and the same time.

CHAPTER VI.

CONCLUSION OF SETTLEMENT.

The settlement papers are prepared in separate files, one file ordinarily for each jote, and relate to two different stages of the operations, namely, the field-stage and the recess-stage. They are the following :— Settlement papers.

I.—FIELD-STAGE.

1. Chitta.
2. Map.
3. Abstract of rights.

II.—RECESS-STAGE.

4. Khatiyan.
5. Ekwal.
6. Jamabundi.
7. Terij.
8. Mahaterij or an abstract statement of holdings.
9. Patta.

I. *Chitta.*—This is prepared in the field by the surveyor or amin, and it contains the results of measurement. Each plot or field as it is measured is entered in it, and the title under which different persons hold the same are also recorded in the appropriate columns. Thus, a field comprised within the jote and held by a Dar-chukanidar is recorded in the name of the jotedar, the Chukanidar and the Dar-chukanidar. The plots are arranged consecutively, commencing from the north-west corner of the jote. There are different columns for the recording of (1) the relative position of the field with reference to the one foregoing, (2) the dimensions of the field, (3) its area, (4) the classification of the soil, (5) the nature of the crop raised in it. In the heading the names of the Pargana and the Taluk, the Towji and settlement numbers, the name of the jotedar, and nature of the mehal, namely, whether Mal or Debutter, are noted down. How recorded.

2. *Map.*—The outline or the boundary is mapped from the field-book, generally to the scale of 16 inches to the mile. The fields are then plotted on it by a reference to the chitta, and numbers corresponding with serial numbers of chitta are put down on them. This means that every plot of land in the jote has a definite number in the settlement papers to identify it, by which it can be referred to the map and traced to the chitta which will give all informations regarding it. The map is first drawn in pencil and the lines are subsequently inked while the amin is yet on Scale 16 inches to the mile.

the field. The colouring is done in the office afterwards. Different colours are used to indicate the different kinds of land. For instance, red denotes homestead, purple bamboo, yellow cultivated area, and green patit lands. The field book is attached to the map, and a copy of it is appended to the chitta. To avoid folding up and ensure better preservation the map is not incorporated with the chitta, but all the maps of the same Taluk are bound up together, fronted by a congregated map of the Taluk, and an index of its contents.

3. *Abstract of rights and jamas.*—To the chitta is appended by the amin an abstract statement containing the names of the jotedar and the different grades of undertenants with the jama or rental payable by each, as far as these can be ascertained on the field. For this purpose the amin takes the depositions of all grades of tenure-holders, and files the same with the chitta. These depositions are not on oath, and are called the "Estfashers." They are supplemented by the "statement of right" which is filed by all grades of tenure holders before the settlement officer. These statements have to be verified and are admitted after due indentification of the persons filing them. The whole is concluded by a full report of the amin on points connected with the survey, and the recording of rights.

4. *Khatiyan.*—After the chitta has been made over to the office by the amins and the necessary examinations of the entries are over, the Khatiyan is prepared. By this the different plots constituting a holding or undertenure are arranged together, and the area found out by striking a separate total for each holding. The Khatiyan is thus an abstract of the chitta.

5. *Ekwal.*—This is an abstract of the Khatiyan, showing the different tenures and the total quantity of land comprised by each, as also the classification of the same. Unlike the Khatiyan the entries for each holding are made in one line only, to some extent resembling those of the Terij.

6. *Jamabundi.*—The next step is the preparation of the Jamabundi or the calculation of the amount of revenue. The different totals under each class of land of the Ekwal are arranged in a column and the amount of revenue at the rates fixed are arrived at with the assistance of the table of rates, or ready reckoner. A total is then struck for each kind of land which represents the jama assessable on the same. The grand total of these separate totals gives the assessed jama of the jote.

7. *Terij.*—This is the final record of right. It first shews for the jote, the name of the jotedar, the total area, and the details

of assessed and unassessed land, as well as the amount of revenue arrived at by the jamabundi. Under the jote the different holdings of the next grade, namely, Chukani, are brought together and particulars regarding the area and the like, as in the case of the jote, are recorded. After the jama assessed at the revenue rate, the profit payable to the superior landlord is put down and the total of these two shews the rental payable for the holding. Subsequently, each Chukani is separately dealt with, and the different undertenures connected with it are arranged under it, as in the case of the jote. Under each holding the quantity of land in the khas possession of the holder is shewn in a separate line.

8. *Mahaterij.*—This is in a sense an abstract of the terij. It shows the number of different tenures and undertenures in a jote, and the land comprised in each holding.

9. *Patta.*—A patta is given to each jotedar after the conclusion of the settlement, showing the jama and the term of the settlement, as well as the conditions under which the jote is held. The Patta has now the force of law. No kabulyat was taken from the jotedars during the re-settlement of the State. Besides the above, lists of jama were prepared in the course of the re-settlement operations, containing under different columns, the name of the Pargana, the Thak number, the name of the taluk, the number of the jote, the name of the jotedar, the quantity of land and the amount of revenue. The Towjis in the Revenue Department were prepared on the strength of these lists. The lists are bound up together and there is generally one volume for each Pargana. They are in a sense the General Registers of Jotes.

Records of Rights.

Legal force of Terij.

The terij records the right of every class of land holders, from the jotedars down to the lowest undertenant. Under the rules having the force of the law in the State, the terij is the conclusive evidence of the title as between the State and the parties on the records. It is also *prima facie* evidence of title as between the parties on the records other than the State, and as between them and third parties.

Of Patta.

The patta, as regards all persons named therein as holding under it, and the terij, as regards all other occupiers of the soil named therein, have to be held by all courts and offices to be conclusive evidence of the possession by such persons at the time of the settlement as against adverse claimants. As regards claimants who assert joint or fiduciary possession with such persons,

the patta, or the terij is admissible as *prima facie*, but not conclusive, evidence of possession against the claimants in question.

Finality of settlement papers.

The accuracy of the settlement papers cannot be questioned in a civil court unless the suit is brought within three years of the date of the preparation of the terij and unless it has been first contested in the settlement department. The jotedars and their undertenants have got right of occupancy in the land. A jote can be resumed on the breach of any term of the patta, or if it be required for any public purpose, but on no other grounds.

Right of jotedars.

The State can not claim any enhancement of revenue during the term of the lease; nor can the jotedar claim any reduction unless any portion of the jote has been washed away by rivers. The jotedar is entitled to the settlement of the accretion to his jote by alluvion, if he applies for it within two years of its formation. The undertenants have a similar right to the settlement of the new land, subject to the law regarding sub-infeudation.

Of undertenants.

The undertenants are liable to ejectment on the breach of any condition of the lease, and in suits for arrears of rent, if the decretal amount remains unpaid after the thirtieth day of the decree.

Right to fruit-trees.

The jotedars and their undertenants had formerly no right to the trees or groves beyond one of enjoyment in the natural way. A living tree could not be cut down by them. This law has, however, been modified and the jotedars and their undertenants are now absolute owners of such trees in their holdings as are planted by them or their forefathers.

Right to valuable timber trees.

Timber trees (sal, sishu and teak) growing on any land belong to the State and the occupants have no title to them. If, however, any jotedar grows such trees on his land he is entitled to exercise absolute right to them and also to get a reduction of jama of Rs. 2-8 per Bigha for land so planted ; but this reduction is only granted to the extent of one Bigha for every hundred in the jote.

CHAPTER VII.

COST OF RE-SETTLEMENT.

Total cost and distribution.

The cost of re-settlement amounted to Rs. 4,24,716. Although this expenditure was distributed over thirteen years, from 1886-87 to 1898-99, more than two-thirds of it was met in the first five years of the operations. As already noticed, the establishment was gradually reduced afterwards, and the annual expenditure was considerably brought down. The bulk of the work had been finished by 1890-91, and the operations were wound up in the subsequent years. The expenditure incurred in each of the years is shown below :—

Year.	Amount. Rs.
1886-87	37,435
1887-88	37,111
1888-89	57,097
1889-90	1,01,049
1890-91	77,198
1891-92	27,966
1892-93	20,346
1893-94	20,400
1894-95	9,981
1895-96	4,951
1896-97	4,305
1897-98	13,157
1898-99	13,720
Total Rs.	4,24,716

Bilat Bishguri and other tracts.

This amount includes a sum of Rs. 30,000 which represents the cost of the re-survey and re-settlement of Bilat Bishguri, the western portion of Gird Chawra and Taluks Jari Dharla Nadi and Daikhata, in all comprising an area of 1,92,305 Bighas, or 994 square miles, of which 1,24,777 Bighas were assessed.

Field-work and re-cess work.

The field-work, which consisted of the measurement and classification of land by the Amins and inspection by the Partal officers, took up about a third of the whole time. Roughly speaking, therefore, a third of the entire cost, or Rs. 1,41,572, would represent the cost of the field-work, and the remainder, namely, 2,83,144, of the recess-work, consisting of the examination of the Chitta, preparation of Khatian, Jamabandi, Terij and other records of right, and case-work and the like.

Average cost per Bigha, acre and square mile

The cost of re-settlement was 3 annas and $2\frac{1}{3}$ pies per Bigha, or 9 annas and 7 pies per acre and Rs. 387-9-1 per square mile. It is already on record that there was no general re-measurement of the lands during the Rakam-charcha operations, and that only a small portion of the country was re-surveyed for purposes of re-assessment. The extent of the land which was not re-measured was 19,98,919 Bighas, and that of the land which was re-surveyed 1,24,777 Bighas. The cost of re-settlement in each of these tracts is separately shown below :—

Description of method.	Quantity of assessed land.	Total amount of cost.	Cost per Bigha.	Cost per acre.	Cost per square mile.
	Bighas.	RS.	AS. P.	AS. P.	RS. AS. P.
Rakam-charcha	19,98,919	3,94,716	3 1	9 3	373 1 4
Re survey ...	1,24,777	30,000	3 9	11 3	453 12 0
Total ...	21,23,696	4,24,716	3 $2\frac{1}{3}$	9 7	387 9 1

Costs under two systems compared.

The cost of re-settlement under the Rakam-charcha system amounted to 3 annas and 1 pie per Bigha, or Rs. 373 per square mile, and that by re-survey came up to 3 annas and 9 pies per Bigha, or Rs. 454 per square mile. The excess of expenditure under re-survey was 8 pies per Bigha, or about Rs. 80 per square mile. By adopting the supplementary system of recording the chitta in regard to the greater portion of the State, therefore, the authorities succeeded in causing a saving of expenditure amounting to close upon a lac of rupees.

Net profit by the outlay.

The amount of annual increase secured by this outlay amounted to Rs. 2,88,418. As this increase would be derived for 30 years, the State has secured a total income of about 67 lacs of rupees, (taking the progressive Jamas into account) by the outlay. The total cost of re-settlement (Rs. 4,24,716) with interest at $3\frac{1}{2}$ percent would come up to about 9 lacs of rupees at the end of the thirtieth year, by which time the increase realised will have amounted to nearly Rs. 67 lacs. The net gain to the State would therefore still be very large, nearly 58 lacs, besides a revenue of above $2\frac{3}{4}$ lacs of rupees to be derived year after year.

Cost as an investment.

Again, the amount of interest which the money expended on these operations can bring in annually at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent is about Rs. 15,000, while the increase secured by its outlay is

Rs. 2,88,418 a year ; in other words the State has secured an income of 68 per cent per annum by the outlay on the re-settlement, against 3½ per cent. which it could obtain by investment in Promissory Notes.

Scale of salary of Settlement staff.

It may be useful for future reference to have on record the scale of pay allowed to the settlement staff. The Settlement Officers enjoyed a pay ranging between Rs. 200 and Rs. 250. The office Peshkar had Rs. 60 a month ; the Partal officer or Inspector, Rs. 50 ; first grade Amins, Rs. 25 each ; and second grade men, Rs. 20 each. Clerks and Moharers had Rs. 20 each. Besides these, Ticca Moharers were taken in during the recess, chiefly for copying and comparing work, and were remunerated ordinarily at Rs. 10 a month.

No work was ever obtained under the contract system.

Conduct of subordinate staff.

In conclusion, it is due to the Settlement staff to note that speaking as a whole the officers employed on the arduous work of the re-settlement of the State all served with zeal and faithfulness and never shirked duty or grudged hard labour ; while the efficiency and the correctness of the work done were on the whole above impeachment.

FINIS.

APPENDIXES.

APPENDIX.

TO

PART II.

Short notes on the Mech and Garo tribes.

Meches.

The Meches of Cooch Behar, and their number is very small, claim their descent from god Siva and his wife *Thánsiri*.

Birth.—When the child is born, two old women, who are called *Dewsi* or *ojha* or medicine-women, sprinkle over the babe water purified with *Tulasi* leaves and pieces of gold and silver, and cut the umbilical cord with a thin sharp piece of split bamboo. The child is named at this time. The *Dewsis* are feasted with pig's meat and wine. The unclean period is over when the stump of the cord falls off.

Marriage.—The girl is married when she is eleven or twelve years old and has learnt the household duties, the chief of which are cooking and weaving. The marriageable age of the boy is sixteen or seventeen. The bridegroom's relatives come to the house of the bride's father with three *bhárs* of wine and settle the match. The *pan* or bride's money is settled at this time and does not ordinarily exceed one hundred rupees. After a month the bride is conveyed to her future husband's house on a morning after her relatives have been entertained with a feast by the bride's party. On the day of marriage two pigs are killed very early in the morning; and the women dance wearing three pieces of the meat on their wrist in the form of a bracelet. At noon the bride offers rice to the *shiz* plant, of which one is planted in every Mech house. The rice so offered is then served by the girl herself, first to the bridegroom and then to all other assembled guests. The bride is then given away by the father, and the ceremony is concluded by the bride's father and his friends offering presents in money to the girl.

Widow-marriage is in vogue among the Meches. The bride's money, which has to be paid for a widow, is only half of what is payable for a maiden.

Death.—The Meches either burn or bury their dead. At cremation the *hal majhi* or head-man of the village applies fire to

the funeral pyre. The party then drink water purified with *Tulasi* leaves, gold and silver, and sanctified by the male *Dewsi*. After this they bathe and drink wine. The *Mahakala* and the *Shiz* plant are worshiped for the good of the departed soul.

Food and drink.—The Meches do not eat beef. The cow is held in veneration and its unnatural death is expiated as by the Hindus. They eat fowl and pork. They drink a kind of home-made liquor prepared from fried rice, which is fermented in an earthen pot and with which the juice of a plant is mixed.

Habits, manners, customs etc.—The Meches never build a house unless the site is not objectionable. The house-site is selected by keeping some washed rice covered on the land. If in the morning the rice be found in tact, the site is pronounced to be good; otherwise it is rejected as unpropitious.

The Meches have three principal gods: *Thansiri*, *Shiz* and *Mahakala*. The image of *Thansiri* is made by placing a small earthen pot filled with paddy on a piece of bamboo (*chong*) and the whole is covered with a new cloth and tied with a piece of cotton string; oil is then poured over it. This image is placed within the principal hut in the north-east corner. The *shiz* plant is planted outside at the south-east corner of the house. The *vedi* of *Mahakala* is made a short distance from the *Shiz* towards the south. The *Thansiri* and *Mahakala* are worshiped with offerings of fowl, pigs and wine, while to *shiz*, which represents Siva, only fowl is offered.

The Meches do not eat with their women. They leave off eating if they are accidentally touched by their females.

The Meches are a gay people and are fond of singing and dancing. Their women dance gracefully to the tune of the flute, while others accompany them with songs, keeping time with both the hands. They sing in a nasal tone. They wear cloth of their own manufacture variegated with different colours among which red predominates.

The occupation of the Meches is agriculture. They are given to roving and do not stick to the same land or neighbourhood for a long time, but roam about from place to place, seeking, among light jungles, unbroken soil and fresh pastures. They also rear pigs and fowl.

The male inherit among them. The succession is *per capita*.

The Meches are gradually becoming civilized and Hinduized.

GAROS.

The Garos of the State call themselves also *Rabhas* or *Paharipas*. They are darker in colour than the Meches and are less cleanly in habit.

The Garos live in huts which are long from east to west, an entire family of parents and grown up and married daughters and sons occupying one and the same hut. They wear very narrow and short cloths of their own manufacture. The women put on two such pieces; one of these is wrapt round the waist and does not fully come down to the knee, and the other round the breast and scarcely reaches the waist. These primitive manners are, however, fast disappearing under the influence of modern civilization.

The Garos eat almost any food. They drink a sort of home-made beer like the Meches. The men and women may eat together. They are agriculturists by profession and also catch fish.

The Garos' god is called *Jankhra*. It is represented by a bamboo with prigs on, which is driven into the ground in front of the door of the dwelling house. It is worshiped by the offering of pigs, fowl and wine.

The Garos are a timid race and very poor. They do not stick to the same place long, and the slightest panic, supposed or real, is sure to find entire Garo bustees deserted in a single night.

They have flutes and *madals* and sing and dance during festivals, but are not half so lively as the merry Meches.

Unlike the Meches, they observe no unclean period after a birth or death. As soon as the naval cord is cut by an old woman and water is sprinkled on the head of the mother and the child, the uncleanliness ends. The child is named at this time as among the Meches.

It is the girl that marries the bride-groom. After the marriage the bride-groom ordinarily becomes a member of his father-in-law's family and lives and works for its welfare. Hence forth his connection with his father's family ceases. The son has no status in the family for it is the daughter that succeeds to the father's property. The widows are remarried.

The Garos burn their dead.



Photo-Print.

Survey of India Office, Calcutta, 1893

A GROUP OF MECHES AND GAROS.—*Page 600.*

PART III.

Geneological tables of the kings of old Kamarapa.

I.

Danava kings of Kamrarupa.

Mahiranga.
|
(Unknown.)
|
Ratnasura.

II.

Asura kings of Kamarupa.

Naraka.
|

Bhagadatta | Madaharsha | Madanara | Sumali.

* * *
|
Shalasthambha
* * *
|
Sriharsiha.
* * *
|
Pralambha
|
Hajara
|
Vanamala Barman.
* * *
|
Kumara Bhashkara Barman.
|
(Continued.)

III.

Pratapgarh dysanty.

Nagasankar (378 A. D.)
|
Ari-matha.
|
Jangal Balahu.
|
Mriganka.

IV.

The Pala kings of Dimla.

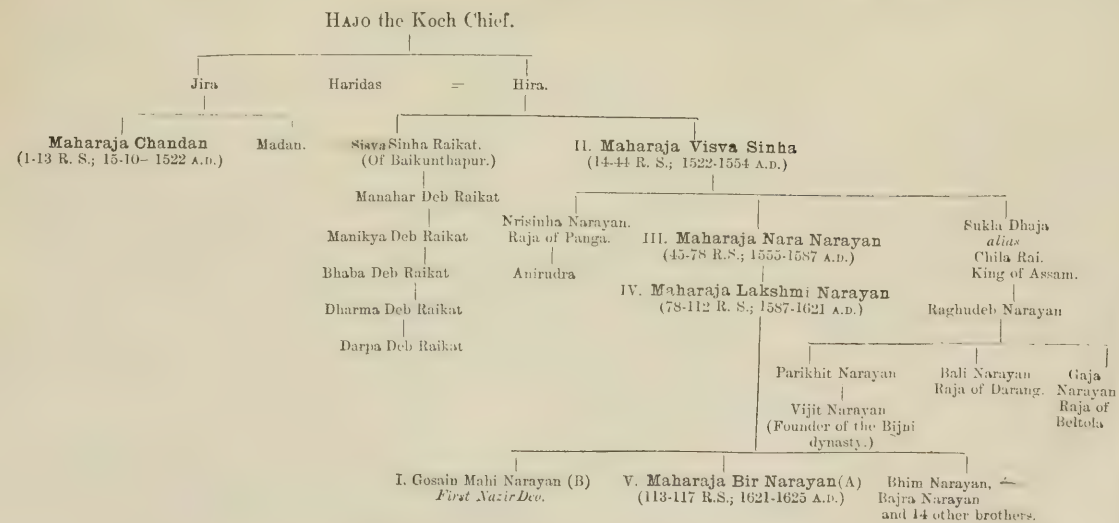
Manikchandra.
|
Dharmapala.
|
Gopichandra.
|
Bhabachandra.
|
(Unknown)
|
Pala Raja.

V.

The Khen kings of Gosanimari.

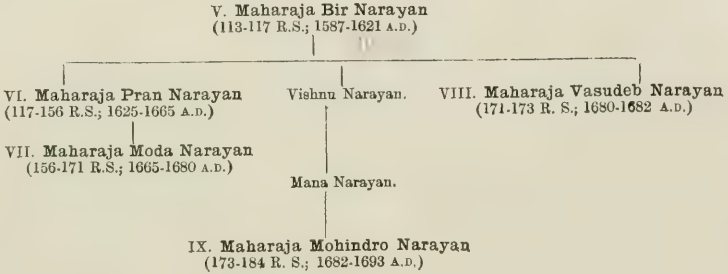
Niladhwaja.
|
Chakradhwaja.
|
Nilamvara.

Geneological table of the Koch Kings of Kamarupa and Feudatory Chiefs of Cooch Behar.

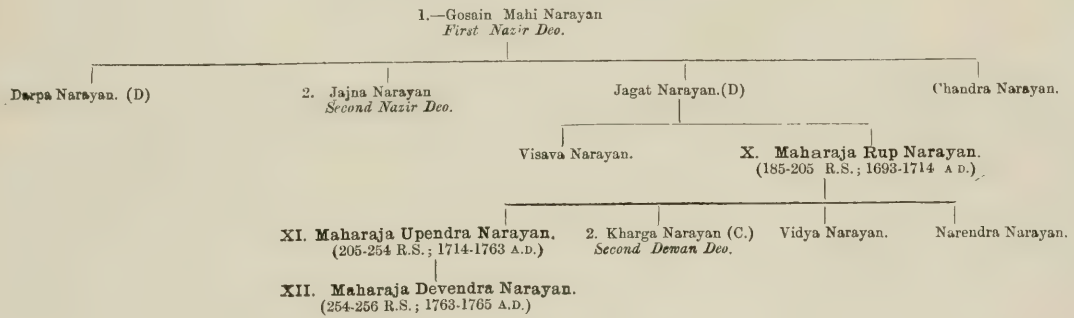


Geneological table of the Koch Kings of Kamarupa and Feudatory Chiefs of Cooch Behar.—(Continued.)

A—Descendants of Maharaja Bir Narayan.

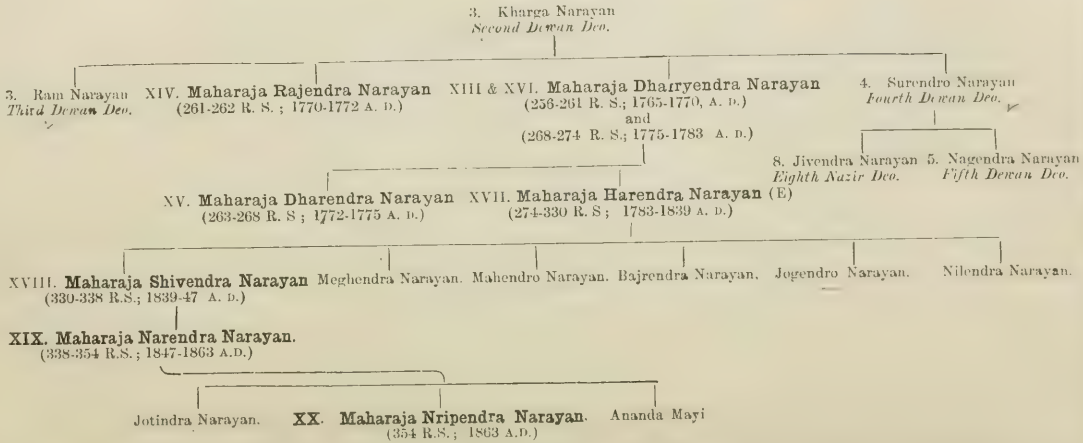


B.—Descendants of Gosain Mahi Narayan, the first Nazir Deo.



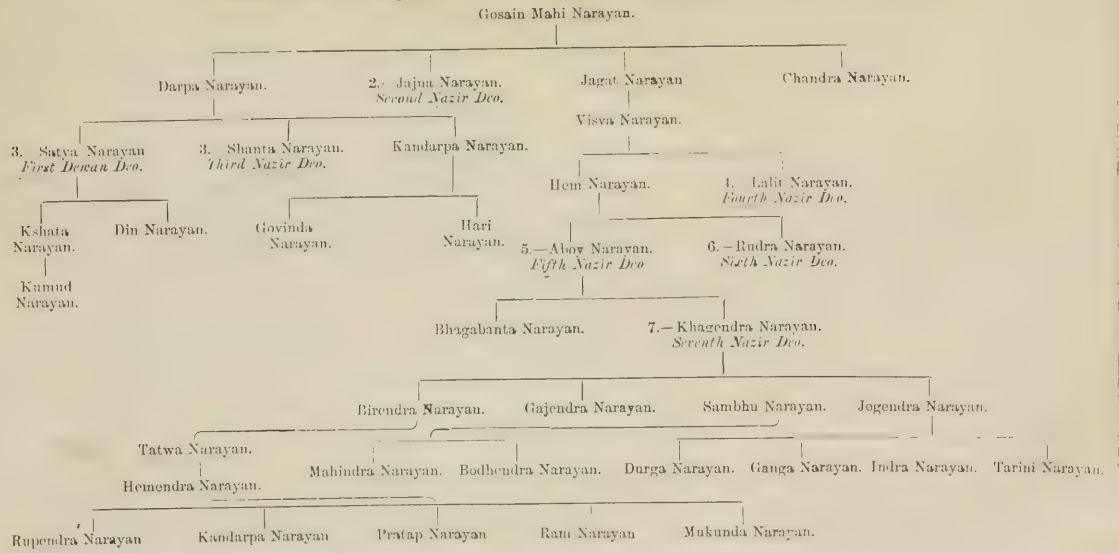
Genealogical table of the Koch kings of Kamarupa and the Feudatory Chiefs of Cooch Behar. (*Continued*).

C.—Descendants of Kharga Narayan, the second Dewan Deo.



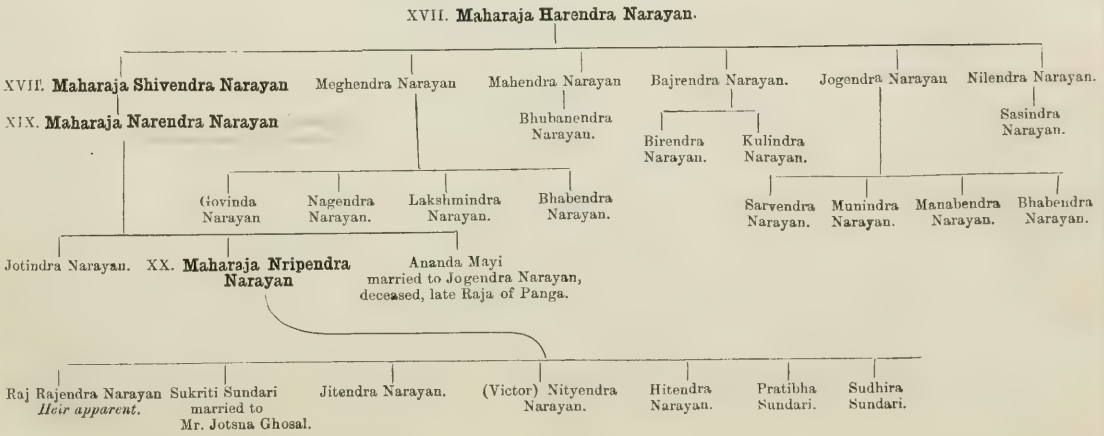
Geneological table of the line of the Koch Kings of Kamarupa and the Feudatory Chiefs of Cooch Behar. (Continued.)

D.– Descendants of Darpa Narayan and Jagat Narayan sons of Gosain Mahi Narayan.

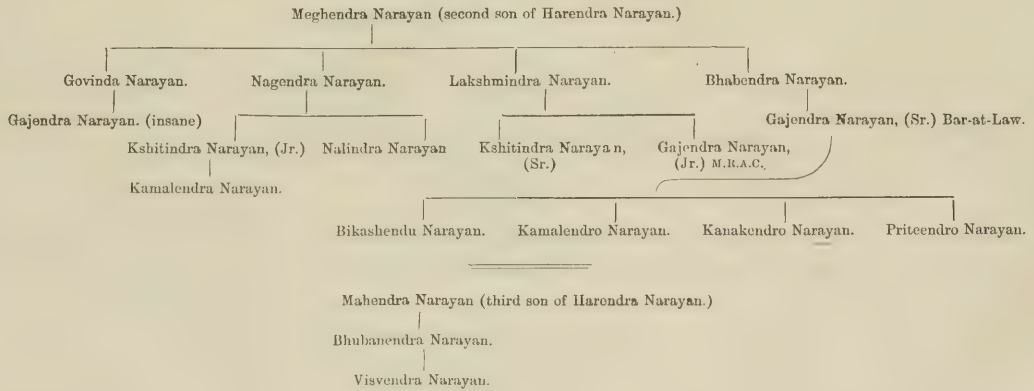


Geneological table of the Koch Kings of Kamarupa and the Feudatory Chiefs of Cooch Behar.—(Concluded.)

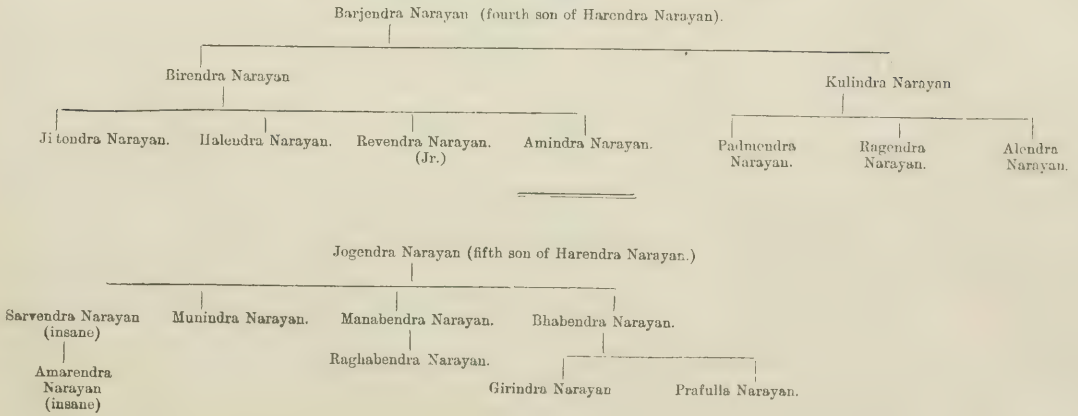
E.—Descendants of Maharaja Harendra Narayan.



Great-grand sons of Maharaja Harendra Narayan and cousins of His Highness Maharaja SirNripendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur, G.C.I.E., C.B.



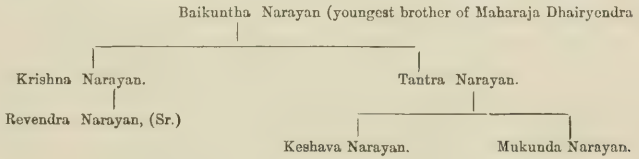
Great-grand sons of Maharaja Harendra Narayan.—(*Continued*)



Great-grand sons of Maharaja Harendra Narayan (*concluded.*)

Nilendra Narayan (sixth son of Harendra Narayan.)
|
Sasindra Narayan
|
Nagendra Narayan

Descendants of Baikuntha Narayan, the last son of Kharga Narayan, second Dewan Deo.



APPENDIX.

PART IV.

No. I.—*Headings of information relative to the re-assessment of the State.*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		Unassessed Land.					Assessed Land.					
Name of Pargana.	Extent in Bighas	Patit land, jungle, churs swamps, &c.	Hats, roads, &c. and lands incapable of cultivation.	Service.	Rent-free.	Total.	Cultivated.	Culturable.	Total.	First settlement jama.	Jama on the eve of resettlement.	Re-settlement jama.
	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.
Mekhligunj ..	3,72,417 2 7	5,031 3 7	23,561 8 18	....	5,011 11 13	33,597 3 18	2,61,412 4 11	74,077 13 18	3,38,849 18 9	1,29,555 2 7	1,38,500 11 3	1,80,012 3 10
Mathabhanga ..	4,20,268 4 7	4,651 13 9	24,675 9 4	2,932 10 10	7,319 8 3	39,579 1 6	2,87,990 11 1	1,01,698 11 17	3,89,689 3 1	1,72,903 9 3	1,81,764 10 3	2,40,209 9 2
Lalbazar ..	3,53,229 1 13	2,973 6 0	25,751 9 3	892 13 0	15,115 10 0	44,735 18 9	2,34,522 0 10	53,971 2 11	2,88,493 3 4	1,34,198 6 11	1,41,219 5 7	1,81,319 11 9
Dinhata ...	4,05,982 12 17	6,785 13 6	26,263 6 3	342 13 2	8,260 15 13	41,652 8 4	2,97,096 11 19	67,233 9 11	3,64,330 4 13	1,71,023 12 4	1,78,518 8 6	2,39,501 1 7
Cooch Behar ..	6,02,133 12 12	12,923 19 19	45,576 13 2	13,551 0 4	16,598 19 13	88,653 12 18	3,65,780 7 12	1,47,893 12 2	5,13,673 19 14	2,24,455 1 9	2,26,711 3 6	2,83,109 8 1
Tufangunj ..	3,69,082 14 6	33,668 12 19	42,813 19 1	1,390 4 17	1,846 10 18	82,719 7 18	1,92,847 3 17	93,516 2 11	2,86,363 6 8	95,478 10 11	93,055 12 6	1,24,104 2 9
Total...	25,12,113 8 2	66,037 9 0	1,88,635 5 14	19,112 1 13	56,092 16 6	3,30,737 12 13	16,12,379 2 15	5,38,996 12 16	21,81,375 15 9	9,31,024 11 9	9,59,830 3 7	12,48,277 5 2

Headings of information relative to the re-assessment of **PARGANA MEKHLIGUNJ.**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Name of Pargana.	Name of Mehal.	Extent in Bigha.	UNASSESSED LAND.					ASSESSED LAND.			First settlement jama.	Jama on the eve of re-settlement.	Re-settlement jama.
			Patit land, jungle, churs swamps &c.	Hats, roads &c. and lands incapable of cultivation.	Service.	Rent-free.	Total.	Cultivated.	Culturable.	Total.			
		B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.
Mekhligunj	Mal Jotes ..	1,65,082 9 6	2,027 16 17	13,993 19 5	....	4,452 16 4	20,474 12 6	1,13,416 7 16	31,191 9 4	1,44,607 17 0	66,368 1 0	68,931 4 5	87,895 1 9
	Debotter Jotes..	13,206 4 1	113 0 9	1,058 5 14	....	....	1,171 6 3	9,641 2 13	2,393 15 5	12,034 17 18	3,559 7 9	5,985 9 8	7,984 4 5
	Mokarari Mehal	41,075 4 4	721 18 0	.....	....	.....	721 18 0	34,714 2 8	5,639 3 16	40,353 6 4	4,441 0 0	4,441 0 0	4,441 0 0
	Total ..	2,19,363 17 11	2,862 15 6	15,052 4 19	....	4,452 16 4	22,367 16 9	1,57,771 12 17	39,224 8 5	1,96,996 1 2	74,368 8 9	79,357 14 1	1,00,320 6 2
Rahimgunj	Mal Jotes ..	96,921 7 13	1,337 2 15	5,912 18 17	.....	454 15 9	7,704 17 1	67,332 8 0	21,884 2 12	89,216 10 12	38,063 15 6	37,654 7 6	52,794 11 2
	Mokarari Mehal	1,204 5 11	.....	3 3 4	....	.....	3 3 4	800 13 5	400 9 2	1,201 2 7	131 9 9	131 9 9	131 9 9
	Total ..	98,125 13 4	1,337 2 15	5,916 2 1	....	454 15 9	7,708 0 5	68,133 1 5	22,284 11 14	90,417 12 19	38,195 9 3	37,786 1 3	52,926 4 11
Kote Bhajni	Mal Jotes ...	22,542 14 8	512 2 0	117 4 19	....	104 0 0	733 6 19	17,033 10 18	4,775 16 11	21,809 7 9	5,079 12 9	9,307 1 2	12,361 5 0
Teldhar	Mal Jotes ..	32,384 17 4	322 3 6	2,465 16 19	.....	.....	2,788 0 5	21,203 19 11	8,392 17 8	29,596 16 19	11,911 3 10	12,049 10 9	14,434 3 9
	Grand total ..	3,72,417 2 7	5,034 7 6	23,551 8 18	.....	5,011 11 13	33,597 3 18	2,64,142 4 11	74,677 13 14	3,38,819 18 9	1,29,555 2 7	1,38,500 11 3	1,80,042 3 10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Name of Pargana.	Name of Mehal.	Extent in Bighas.	UNASSESSED LAND.					ASSESSED LAND.			First settlement jama.	Jama on the eve of re-settlement.	Re-settlement jama.
			Patit land, jungle, churs, swamps, &c.	Hats, road &c. and lands incapable of cultivation.	Service.	Rent-free.	Total.	Cultivated.	Culturable.	Total.			
		B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.
Mathabhanga.	Mal Jotes ..	3,81,144 2 9	4,506 0 5	22,429 14 5	2,932 10 10	7,132 0 9	37,00 5 9	2,51,580 18 14	92,562 18 6	3,44,143 17 0	1,56,303 2 10	1,63,234 1 6	2,15,151 0 6
	Debotter Mehal	34,599 16 16	132 7 3	2,210 7 8	....	....	2,342 14 11	25,068 5 17	7,188 16 8	32,257 2 5	13,614 6 8	15,010 4 6	20,700 7 4
	Mokarari Mehal	7,523 17 1	4 12 0	1 18 17	....	....	6 10 17	6,654 5 4	863 1 0	7,517 6 4	1,230 15 10	1,230 15 10	1,230 15 10
	Total ..	4,23,267 16 6	4,602 19 8	24,642 0 11	2,932 10 10	7,132 0 9	39,349 10 17	2,83,303 9 15	1,00,614 15 14	3,83,918 5 9	1,71,048 9 4	1,79,475 5 10	2,37,082 7 8
Bashkatar. chhit.	Mal jotes ..	2,993 16 10	8 14 1	23 4 5	. .	187 7 11	219 6 0	2,266 1 10	508 9 0	2,774 10 10	1,323 1 5	1,373 10 11	1,773 2 11
Maraghat Baish chalu.	Mal jotes ..	3,006 11 11	. .	10 4 8	....	....	10 4 9	2,420 19 19	575 7 3	2,996 7 2	551 15 6	915 9 6	1,353 14 7
	Total .	4,29,268 4 7	4,651 13 9	24,675 9 4	2,932 10 10	7,319 8 3	39,579 1 6	2,87,990 11 1	1,01,698 11 17	3,89,689 3 1	1,72,903 10 3	1,81,764 10 3	2,40,209 9 2
						PARGANA LALBAZAR.							
Lalbazar.	Mal Jotes	3,26,344 12 0	2,948 19 8	25,110 8 18	892 13 0	15,115 10 6	44,377 11 12	2,28,745 17 12	53,251 2 16	2,81,967 0 8	1,31,166 2 4	1,37,963 14 9	1,76,807 15 5
	Debotter Mehal	6,193 4 15	14 6 12	344 0 5	....	.... .	358 6 17	5,225 2 4	609 15 11	5,834 17 18	2,888 11 3	3,141 13 6	4,368 3 0
	Mokarari Mehal (Mal)	600 6 13	... .	.....	....	. ..	....	471 0 13	129 6 0	600 6 13	135 4 1	135 4 1	135 4 1
	Mokarari Mehal (Debotter)	90 18 5	....	....	.....	....	....	80 0 1	10 18 4	90 18 5	8 5 3	8 5 3	8 5 3
	Total ..	3,33,229 1 13	2,973 6 0	25,751 9 3	892 13 0	15,115 10 6	44,735 18 9	2,34,522 0 10	53,971 2 14	2,88,493 3 4	1,34,198 6 11	1,41,249 5 7	1,81,319 11 9

No. 1.—*Headings of information relative to the re-assessment of* PARGANAS DINHATA AND COOCH BEHAR.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
			UNASSESSED LAND.					ASSESSED LAND.					
Name of Pargana.	Name of Mehal.	Extent in Bighas.	Patit land, jungle, churs, swamps &c.	Hats, roads, &c. and lands incapable of cultivation.	Service.	Rent-free.	Total.	Cultivated.	Culturable.	Total.	Fixed settlement jama.	Jama on the eve of re-settlement.	Re-settlement jama.
		B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.
Dinhata.	Mal Jotes ..	3,80,778 10 15	6,706 6 8	21,576 19 2	342 13 2	8,260 15 13	39,886 11 5	2,78,771 11 2	62,117 2 8	3,40,891 16 10	1,67,768 15 8	1,67,770 12 1	2,25,876 13 9
	Debotter Mehal	22,122 15 5	49 19 6	1,674 8 5	. ..	. ..	1,714 18 11	15,959 17 9	4,747 19 5	20,707 16 14	9,568 10 2	10,081 9 11	12,928 1 1
	Mokarari Mehal	2,781 6 17	5 8 16 12	11 18 16	....	....	50 15 8	2,562 3 8	368 8 1	2,730 11 9	696 2 6	696 2 6	696 2 6
	Total ..	4,05,682 12 17	6,785 13 0	23,263 6 3	342 13 2	8,260 15 13	41,652 5 4	2,97,293 11 12	67,233 2 14	3,64,530 4 13	1,78,033 12 1	1,78,548 8 6	2,39,501 1 7
							PARGANA COOCH BEHAR.						
Cooch Behar.	Mal Jotes ..	5,20,539 6 7	11,893 12 14	12,280 5 14	13,554 10 2	16,298 19 13	54,026 8 10	3,66,286 10 7	1,51,100 8 9	5,20,155 18 16	1,91,150 3 5	1,91,200 5 3	2,48,863 11 1
	Debotter Mehal	76,726 11 1	1,030 7 6	3,288 19 6	19 10 2	....	4,368 16 8	56,638 11 8	15,541 3 5	72,157 14 13	32,000 2 10	31,776 2 9	41,031 11 6
	Total ..	5,97,061 18 1	12,923 19 13	15,575 5 2	13,574 0 1	16,298 19 13	88,394 5 18	3,61,850 1 15	1,16,705 11 14	5,08,813 13 9	2,23,150 6 3	2,26,166 8 0	2,82,555 12 7
	Mokarari Mehal (Mal)	4,471 17 4	.....	1 8 0	. .	. ..	8 0	3,961 3 13	1,109 5 5	1,470 9 1	512 13 1	512 13 4	512 13 4
	Mokarari Mehal (Debotter)	595 17 1	.....	....	....	..		5,9 1 18	26 15 3	595 17 1	31 14 2	31 14 2	31 14 2
	Total ..	6,02,133 12 12	12,923 19 13	15,576 16 2	13,554 0 1	16,298 19 13	88,453 12 18	3,65,780 7 12	1,17,899 12 2	5,13,679 19 11	2,24,455 1 9	2,26,711 3 6	2,83,100 8 1

No. 1.—*Headings of information relative to the re-assessment of*

PARGANA TUFANGUNJ.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Name of Pargana.	Name of mehal.	Extent in Bighas.	Unassessed land.					Assessed land.			First settlement jama.	Jama on the eve of re-settlement.	Re-settlement jama.
			Patit land, jungle, churs, swamps &c.	Hats, road, &c. and lands incapable of cultivation.	Service.	Rent-free.	Total.	Cultivated.	Culturable.	Total.			
		B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.
Tufangunj.	Mal jote ..	3,21,785 6 1	32,520 10 0	10,153 6 17	1,390 4 17	1,816 10 18	78,910 12 12	1,59,868 6 7	83,006 7 2	2,42,874 13 9	78,816 12 9	76,295 11 7	1,03,160 3 6
	Debatter Mehal	47,178 9 12	1,148 2 19	2,660 12 7	..	....	3,808 15 6	32,859 18 17	10,509 15 9	43,369 14 6	17,061 14 2	16,760 0 11	20,613 15 3
	Total ..	3,68,963 15 13	33,668 12 19	12,813 19 4	1,390 4 17	1,816 10 18	82,719 7 18	1,92,728 5 4	93,516 2 11	2,86,244 7 15	95,878 10 11	93,055 12 6	1,24,074 2 9
	Mokarari Mehal	118 18 13	....	....	.....	....	....	118 18 13	....	118 18 13	.....	....	30 0 0
	Total ...	3,69,082 14 6	33,668 12 19	12,813 19 4	1,390 4 17	1,816 10 18	82,719 7 18	1,92,847 3 17	93,516 2 11	2,86,363 6 8	95,878 10 11	93,055 12 6	1,24,104 2 9

No. II.—Particulars of rent-free lands.—**PARGANA MEKHLIGUNJ.**

Serial Number.	Name of holders.	Descriptions of the holdings.							
		Brahmotter.	Debutter.	Bakhsisi Lakhiraj.	Lakhiraj.	Petbhata.	Pirpal.	Jaigir Paitriki.	Jaigir Bakhsisi.	Total.
		B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.
1	Bhandarini Thakurani	.....	64 18 15	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	64 18 15
2	Dinanath Ghose and others	.....	.....	313 4 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	313 4 0
3	Baikuntha Chundra Mustafi	46 19 4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	46 19 4
4	Prasanna Nath Maitra	1,947 11 9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,947 11 9
5	Iswari Devya and others	751 7 4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	751 7 4
6	Girisram and Banuram Sarma	806 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	806 0 0
7	Ramnath Sarma	151 12 6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	151 12 6
8	Nilananda Sarma...	46 19 4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	46 19 4
9	Parameswari Devya and others ...	324 4 2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	324 4 2
	Total ...	4,074 13 9	64 18 15	313 4 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4,452 16 4

RAHIMGUNJ.

1	Gunamani Devya and others	208 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	208 0 0
2	Mahendra Narain Chakravarti	.....	89 7 9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	89 7 9
3	Ratnakar Sarma	157 8 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	157 8 0
	Total ...	365 8 0	89 7 9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	454 15 9

GIRD KOTBHAJNI.

1	Rakshapani Dasya	104 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	104 0 0
	Grand total ...	4,544 1 9	154 6 4	313 4 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5,011 11 13

No. II.—Particulars of rent-free lands.—**PARGANA MATHABHANGA.**

Serial Number.	Names of Holders.	Description of the holdings.								
		Brahmotter.	Debotter.	Bakhsisi-Lakhiraj.	Lakhiraj.	Petbhata.	Pirpal.	Jaigir Paitriki.	Jaigir Bakhsisi.	Total.
		B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K.D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.
1	Muktiram Bhattacharyya and others ...	178 12 16	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	178 12 6
2	Bhavaniram Sarma and others	183 10 14	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	183 10 14
3	Haragovinda Sarma Hisavia	197 5 11	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	197 5 11
4	Sivaprasad Karji and others	.....	138 12 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	183 12 0
5	Bagavati Devya and another	143 13 2	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	143 13 2
6	Jagabandhu Medi	.....	1,114 15 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,114 15 0
7	Ram Nath Sarma...	108 7 9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	108 7 9
8	Kali Prosad Sarma	46 19 4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	46 19 4
9	Muktiram Sarma	188 10 17	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	188 10 17
10	Matangini Devya	88 8 8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.. ...	.....	88 8 8
11	Pitamvar Sarma	40 19 17	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	40 19 17

12	Sidhva Nath Bhattacharyya	100 2 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	102 2 0
13	Sidhva Nath Bhattacharyya and others...	132 6 12	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	132 6 12
14	Banuram Sarma and another	156 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	156 0 0
15	Ramdhan Bhattacharyya and another...	281 15 4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	281 15 4
16	Kali Prasad Bhattacheryya and others ...	125 15 15	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	125 15 15
17	Saktiram Karji	.....	40 15 2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	40 15 2
18	Tepu Das Murangia	.....	46 8 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	86 8 0
19	Bava Nath Sarma	80 5 19	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	80 5 19
20	Matangini Devya and others	23 8 8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	23 8 8
21	Nilgriva Sarma	54 1 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	54 1 0
22	Baivya Nath Sarma and others... ...	117 15 16	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	117 15 16
23	Ramnath Bairagi	.....	32 8 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	32 8 0
24	Mukunda Narayan Kumar	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,861 3 4	.....	.....	.....	2,861 3 11
25	Bhuvananda Narayan Kumar	.....	.....	.....	.....	153 14 2	.....	.....	.....	153 14 2
26	Rajmata Nisimayi Deo Aye Devati ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	49 15 11	.....	.....	.....	49 15 11
	Carried over ...	2,247 18 12	1,457 18 2	.....	.....	3,064 13 4	.....	.....	.....	6,770 9 18

Serial Number.	Names of holders.	Description of the holdings.								
		Brahmotter.	Debotter.	Bakhsisi Lakhiraj.	Lakhiraj.	Petbhatta.	Pirpal.	Jaigir Paitriki.	Jaigir Bakhsisi.	Total.
	Brought forward... ...	B. K. D. 2,247 18 12	B. K. D. 1,457 18 2	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D. 3,064 13 4	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D. 6,770 9 18
27	Mahendraram Bhattacharya	131 10 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	131 10 0
28	Dharaniram Bhattacharya	230 0 11	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	230 0 11
29	Hukumchand Oswal	.....	.....	.....	93 13 17	.....	.....	.....	.....	93 13 17
30	Kalichandra Saha and another	.....	.....	.....	93 13 17	.....	.....	.....	.....	93 13 17
	Total ...	2,609 9 3	1,457 18 2	.....	187 7 14	3,064 13 4	.....	.....	.....	7,319 8 3
	PARGANA LALBAZAR.									
1	Ambica Prasad Bakhsi	85 10 14	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	85 10 14
2	Mahalakshi Debya									
3	Ramnath Chakravarti	281 0 16	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	281 0 16
4	Siddhanath Sarma and another... ...	196 12 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	196 12 0

5	Brajanath Sarma	28 5 9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	28 5 9
6	Gunamani Debya and another	624 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	. ...	624 0 0
7	Dinanath Ghose and others	.....	.....	245 18 4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	245 18 4
8	Bhuvanmayi Devya and others... ...	93 13 12	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	93 13 12
9	Chakranath Sarma and another... ...	18 0 6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	18 0 6
10	Badiyanath Sarma	73 15 9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	73 15 9
11	Lakshminarayan Sarma and others ...	78 9 2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	78 9 2
12	Padmabati Debya	832 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	832 0 0
13	Kasiprasad Sarma	81 19 8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	81 19 8
14	Siva Chandra Lahiri and others	792 14 14	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	792 14 14
15	Prasanna Chandra Goswami and others...	9831 12 2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9,831 12 2
16	Siddhanath Chakravarti	204 7 10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	204 7 10
17	Purneswari Debya	93 6 10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	93 6 10
18	Haragovinda Hisabia	44 13 9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	44 13 9
19	Kalikrishna Munshi	156 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	156 0 0
	Carried over ...	13,516 1 1	.....	245 18 4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13,761 18 5

Serial Number.	NAMES OF HOLDERS	DESCRIPTION OF THE HOLDINGS.							
		Brahmotter.	Debotter.	Bakhsisi-Lakhiraj.	Lakhiraj.	Petbhatta.	Pirpal.	Jaigir Paitriki.	Jaigir Bakhsisi.	Total.
		B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.
	Brought forward ...	13,516 1 1	.....	245 18 4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13,761 19 5
20	Nilmani Goswami and others	1,079 3 6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,079 3 6
21	Lakshmipriya Debya	104 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	104 0 0
22	Ambicaprasad Bakhsi	29 5 10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	29 5 10
23	Baul Das Bairagi	.....	29 18 3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	29 18 3
24	Kulindranarayan Kumar (for life) ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	30 14 5	.....	.....	.....	30 14 5
25	Sureswari Debya and others	80 9 17	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	80 9 17
	Total	14,808 19 14	29 18 3	245 18 4	.....	30 14 5	.....	.....	.....	15,115 10 6

PARGANA DINHATA.

1	Siddhanath Bhattacharya	70 4 18	.....	.....	....	.....	.....	.....	.....	70 4 18
2	Lokanath Goswami and another ...	404 18 3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	404 18 3
3	Lalitmohan Goswami	.....	102 12 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	102 12 0
4	Sukhdev Das Bairagi	.....	21 12 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	21 12 0
5	Kalikanta Sarma and another	86 11 7	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	86 11 7
6	Lakshmipriya Debya	137 18 19	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	137 18 19
7	Chakranath Sarma and others	139 2 9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	139 2 9
1	Baidyanath Das	.....	140 15 6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	140 15 6
9	Siddhanath Chakravarti and others ...	416 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	416 0 0
10	Tarangamayi Debya	35 2 12	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	35 2 12
11	Baikuntha Chandra Mustafi	209 0 12	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	209 0 12
12	Krishna Chandra Mustafi	498 13 1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.. ...	498 13 1
13	Birnath Barkayet	.....	46 16 16	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	46 16 16
14	Chandranath Deb Sarma and another ...	267 3 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	267 3 0
15	Bhaivyanath Chakravarti	58 11 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	58 11 0
	Carried over ...	2,323 7 1	311 16 2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,635 2 3

Serial Number.	NAME OF HOLDERS.	DESCRIPTION OF THE HOLDINGS.								
		Brahmotter.	Debotter.	Bakhsisi Lakhiraj.	Lakhiraj.	Petbhata.	Pirpal.	Jaigir Paitriki.	Jaigir Bakhsisi	Total.
		B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B' K D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.
	Brought forward ...	2,323 7 1	311 16 2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,635 2 3
16	Taramayi Debya and others	379 3 11	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	379 3 11
17	Bilasmayi Debya	97 5 14	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	97 5 14
18	Umesh Chandra Hisabia and others ...	36 11 17	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	36 11 17
19	Siv Chandra Hisabia and others ...	46 6 5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	46 6 5
20	Siv Chandra Hisabia	122 14 7	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	122 14 7
21	Siv Chandra Hisabia and another ...	18 16 7	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	18 16 7
22	Ramakanta Chakravarti	19 19 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	19 19 0
23	Dinanath Bhattacharya and others ...	267 15 1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	267 15 1
24	Dahiram Adhikari	.....	14 5 6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	14 5 6
25	Chandramani Debya	41 2 7	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	41 2 7
26	Govinda Chandra Mujumdar	46 16 5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	46 16 5

27	Syamasundari Debya	163 4 1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	163 4 1
28	Mahendreswar Choudhuri	10 17 13	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10 17 13
29	Bishnuprasad Sarma and others ...	27 3 3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	27 3 3
30	Manomohan Bakhsi	175 5 19	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	175 5 19
31	Kalikrishna Munshi	171 18 10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	171 18 10
32	Swarnamayi Debya	.....	.....	.....	70 5 4	.....	.....	.....	.....	70 5 4
33	Umavati Debya	58 10 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	58 10 0
34	Dhairyanarayan Kumar	.....	140 10 18	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	140 10 18
35	Padmavati Debya	260 7 7	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	260 7 7
36	Maheshananda Chakravarti	26 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	26 0 0
37	Dinanath Ghose and others	.....	.....	.....	85 12 12	.....	.....	.....	.....	85 12 12
38	Dharmanarayan Sarma	54 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	54 0 0
39	Bhuvanananda Hisabia...	.....	86 8 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	86 8 0
40	Devnarayan Sarma	34 13 9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	34 13 9
41	Bhuvanmayi Debya	148 17 6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	148 17 6
	Carried over ...	4,541 15 4	553 0 6	.....	155 17 16	.....	.....	.....	.....	5,250 11 6

Serial Number.	Names of Holders.	Description of the holdings.								
		Brahmotter.	Debotter.	Bakhsisi Lakhiraj.	Lakhiraj.	Petbhata.	Pirpal.	Jaigir Paitriki.	Jaigir Bakhsisi.	Total.
		B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.
	Brought forward	4,541 15 4	553 0 6	.....	155 17 16	.....	.....	.....	.....	5,250 11 6
42	Punneswari Debya	22 3 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	22 3 0
43	Dinanath Sarma and others	58 10 19	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	58 10 19
44	GovindaChandra Chackravati	75 14 12	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	75 14 12
45	Krishna Chandra Lahiri...	364 2 2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	364 2 2
46	Durlabhanarayan Kowar	.....	127 19 12	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	127 19 12
47	Bhubanmayi Debya and others ...	352 4 15	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	352 4 15
48	Janakinath Bhattacharya	156 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	156 0 0
49	Raghubir Bairagi Ramait	.....	2 9 10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2 9 0
50	Anndaprosad Bakhsi	360 7 4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	360 7 4
51	Lakshminarayan Sarma...	64 8 2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	64 8 2
52	Rashbehari Rudra	.....	105 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	105 0 0

53	Krishna Chandra Lahiri and others ...	54 13 15	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	54 13 15
54	Chandramani Debya and others ...	93 13 12	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	93 13 12
55	Daimanti Debya	11 9 4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11 9 4
56	Kamaleswari Debya and others ...	104 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	104 0 0
57	Mukunda Chandra Sarma and others ...	46 16 16	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	46 16 16
58	Govindanarayan Kowar	.....	.....	.....	.....	193 0 1	.....	.....	.....	193 0 1
59	Lakshminarayan Kowar	.....	.....	375 0 0	.....	.....	... ..	.....	.....	375 0 0
60	Satis and Suresh Chandra Mustafi ...	335 0 16	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	335 0 16
61	Syam Chandra Mustafi	88 12 2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	88 12 2
62	Bhubanmayi Debya	23 17 6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	23 17 6
63	Sivaram Das	.....	.....	.....	6 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	6 0 0
	Total ...	6,688 8 8	842 9 8	375 0 0	161 17 16	193 0 1	.....	.....	.....	8,260 15 13

PARGANA COOCH BEHAR.

1	Luknath Goswami	399 2 4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	399 2 4
2	Dharmeswari Debya	70 5 13	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	70 5 13
	Carried over ...	469 7 17	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	469 7 17

Serial Number.	Names of Holders.	Description of the Holdings.							
		Brahmotter.	Debotter.	Bakhsisi Lakhiraj.	Lakhiraj.	Petbhata.	Pirpal.	Jaigir Paitriki.	Jaigir Bakhsisi.	Total.
		B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.
	Brought forward ...	469 7 17	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	469 7 17
3	Nilmani Goswami and another	3,028 6 15	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,028 6 15
4	Bhubanmayi Debya and another ...	117 12 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	117 12 0
5	Sankardip Kuwar	.....	192 6 8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	192 6 8
6	Bidhunath Chakravarti	116 14 3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	116 14 3
7	Hareswar Karji	.....	.....	.....	115 4 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	115 4 0
8	Gavindanarayan Kuwar	.....	.....	.....	.....	316 3 8	.....	.....	.....	316 3 8
9	Sidhvanath Sarma	158 3 3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	158 3 3
10	Umanath Dewta Chakravarti	23 8 8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	23 8 8
11	Srichand Oswal	375 12 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	375 12 0
12	Matangini Debya	84 17 14	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	84 17 14
13	Bhabaniram Bhattacharya	387 4 12	12 13 9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	399 18 1

14	Dinanath Ghose and others	.....	.....	.....	257 13 6	.....	.....	.....	.....	257 13 6
15	Krishnanath Chakravarti	71 8 19	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	71 8 19
16	Promadanandan Chakravarti	94 15 12	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	94 15 12
17	Ramnath Sarma	311 12 18	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	311 12 18
18	Jagabandhu Medi	.....	533 15 15	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	533 15 15
19	Jiban and Rammohan Adhikari ...	.....	47 19 10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	47 19 10
20	Billeswari Debya	83 4 8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	83 4 8
21	Sidhvanath Sarma and another	172 7 12	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	172 7 12
22	Shyam Chandra Mustafi	80 14 17	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	80 14 17
23	Chandramani Debya and others ...	36 6 7	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	36 6 7
24	Sankarnandan Chakravarti	32 10 18	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	32 10 18
25	Bhaibyanath Chakravarti	101 9 18	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	101 9 18
26	Gangapriya Debya	40 6 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	40 6 0
27	Mahamaya Debya and others	71 0 15	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	71 0 15
28	Biswamayi Debya	58 11 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	58 11 0
	Carried over ...	5,915 15 10	786 15 2	.....	372 17 6	316 3 8	.....	.....	.....	7,391 11 12

Serial Number.	Names of Holders.	DESCRIPTION OF THE HOLDINGS.								
		Brahmotter.	Debotter.	Bakhsisi-Lakhiraj.	Lakhiraj.	Petbhata.	Pirpal.	Jaigir Paitriki.	Jaigir Bakhsisi.	Total.
		B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.
	Brought forward ...	5,915 15 16	786 15 2	.....	372 17 6	316 3 8	.....	.....	.....	7,391 11 12
29	Gangaprasad Medi	.....	35 2 12	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	35 2 12
30	Lasmipat Sing Dugar	31 14 1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	31 14 1
31	Baidyanath Sarma and others	203 7 13	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	203 7 13
32	Lakshmipriya Debya	62 10 11	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	62 10 11
33	Lalitmohan Gosain	.....	64 8 2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	64 8 2
34	Pirusah Fakir	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	77 0 2	.....	.....	77 0 2
35	Durgamayi Debya and others	5 17 2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5 17 2
36	Gaurinath Chakravarti	5 17 2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5 17 2
37	Baikuntha Chandra Mustafi	35 2 12	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	35 2 12
38	Durgaprasad Sarma	154 10 5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	154 10 5

39	Kali Chandra and Krishna Chandra Saha	52 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	52 0 0
40	Nillananda Sarma	27 2 18	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	27 2 18
41	Jayantanath and Bishnusankar Chakravarti	8 16 3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8 16 3
42	Tattanath Sarma and others	98 3 19	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	98 3 19
43	Lankeswari Debya and others	52 8 9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	52 8 9
44	Jayantanath Sarma and another ...	136 13 4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	136 13 4
45	Bishnusankar Sarma	107 1 16	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	107 1 16
46	Ramjan Ali Fakir	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6 19 17	.....	.....	6 19 17
47	Pramadanandan Chakravarti and others	13 8 9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13 8 9
48	Pramadanandan and another	77 19 14	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	77 19 14
49	Bishnusankar Chakravarti	25 15 15	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	25 15 15
50	Chakranath Sarma	46 4 11	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	46 4 11
51	Umabati Debya	124 18 18	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	124 18 18
52	Bhaibyanath Chakravarti	62 16 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	62 16 0
53	Luhana Debya	.....	419 19 2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	419 19 2
	Carried over ...	7,248 4 18	1,306 4 18	.....	372 17 6	316 3 8	83 19 19	.....	.....	9,327 10 9

Serial Number.	NAMES OF HOLDERS.	DESCRIPTION OF THE HOLDINGS.								
		Brahmotter.	Debotter.	Bakhsisi Lakhiraj.	Lakhiraj.	Petbhata.	Pirpal.	Jaigir Paitriki.	Jaigir Bakhsisi.	Total.
		B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.
	Brought forward ...	7,248 4 18	1,306 4 18	.....	372 17 6	316 3 8	83 19 19	.....	.....	9,327 10 9
54	Bhavendranarayan Kumar (for life) ...	.....	24 0 12	.....	.....	719 14 18	.....	.....	.....	743 15 10
55	Gavindanath Sarma	22 6 5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	22 6 5
56	Nila Sarkar	.....	2 4 15	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2 4 15
57	Sindu Sing and others	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	153 12 0	153 12 0
58	Chandranath Ishor and others... ...	.....	.....	.....	50 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	50 0 0
59	Bidairsing Kumar	.....	.....	.....	... ..	.....	.....	50 12 12	.....	50 12 12
60	Krishnachandra Jamdaria	.....	60 17 11	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	60 17 11
61	Iswarchandra Sarma	87 16 10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	87 16 10
62	Sidhvanath Bhattacharya	5 13 8	85 0 6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	90 13 14
63	Ichhamayi Devya	57 7 19	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	57 7 19

64	Mahendrasing Konar and others ...	.....	5 2 9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5 2 9
65	Sambhunath Konar and others ...	.....	75 12 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	75 12 0
66	Kaliprosad Das	.....	86 8 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	86 8 0
67	Bikramanandan Sarma	19 10 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	19 10 0
68	Mahendraram Bhattacharya	80 2 3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	80 2 3
69	Parameswari Devya	58 19 16	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	58 19 16
70	Upendraram Bhattacharya and others ...	48 3 11	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.. ...	.....	48 3 11
71	Nityamayi Devya	18 18 15	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	18 18 15
72	Baikuntachandra Bhattacharya ...	14 18 11	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	14 18 11
73	Debnandan Chakravarti	29 5 10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	29 5 10
74	Chandranath Tarafdar	11 14 4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11 14 4
75	Bishnunath Chakravarti	8 5 8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8 5 8
76	Maheshananda Chakravarti	50 3 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	50 3 0
77	Bhaivyanath Chakravarti and another	93 13 12	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	93 13 12
78	Bikramanandan Chakravarti and others	12 4 2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12 4 2
		7,867 7 12	1,645 10 11	.....	422 17 6	335 18 6	83 19 19	50 12 12	153 12 0	10,559 18 6

Serial Number.	Names of holders.	Description of the holdings.								
		Brahmotter.	Debotter.	Bakhsisi-Lakhiraj.	Lakhiraj.	Petbhata.	Pirpal.	Jaigir Paitriki.	Jaigir Bakhsisi.	Total.
		B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.
	Brought forward ...	7,867 7 12	1,645 10 11	.....	422 17 6	335 18 6	83 19 19	50 12 12	153 12 0	10,559 18 6
79	Bhimsankar Sarvadhyakshya	10 14 4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10 14 4
80	Jagannath Bhattachaya and others	65 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	65 0 0
81	Bhaivyanath Sarma and others... ...	130 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	130 0 0
82	Bhaivyanath Chakravarti and others	130 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	130 0 0
83	Krishnanath Sarvadhakshya	5 0 10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5 0 10
84	Satis and Ramesh Chakravarti ...	133 4 6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	133 4 6
85	Ramjadu Bhattacharya	5 11 19	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5 11 19
86	Bijaya Dutt and Hara Dutt Sarma	47 1 2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	47 1 2
87	Kabirsing Konar and another	.....	55 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	55 0 0
88	Tarininandan Chakravarti	7 14 5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7 14 5
89	Mahendranath Sarma	520 7 7	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	520 7 7

90	Maheshanandan Chakravarti	120 5 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	120 5 0
91	Padmeswari Debya	23 0 8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	23 0 8
92	Suryanath Sarma	99 3 6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	99 3 6
93	Baidyanath Sarma	133 6 6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	133 6 6
94	Chandrakanta Sarma	28 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	28 0 0
95	Debnandan Sarma and others	40 15 5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	40 15 5
96	Bijayadatta Sarma	66 9 11	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	66 9 11
97	Valka Adhicari	.....	4 10 18	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4 10 18
98	Bikramananda Sarma and others ...	13 15 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13 15 0
99	Sitanath Sarma and others	35 17 2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	35 17 2
100	Debnandan Sarma and others	62 15 17	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	62 15 17
101	Purandar Sarma	25 16 2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	25 16 2
102	Padmakanta Sarma	13 5 4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13 5 4
103	Pramadanandan Chakravarti and others	220 15 8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	220 15 8
104	Mahishanandan Bhattacharya and others	12 5 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12 5 0
	Carried over ...	9,817 10 14	1,705 1 9	.....	422 17 6	335 18 6	83 19 19	50 12 12	153 12 0	12,569 12 6

Serial Number.	Names of Holders.	Description of the holdings.								
		Brahmotter.	Debotter.	Bakhsisi Lakhiraj.	Lakhiraj.	Petbhata.	Pirpal.	Jaigir Paitriki.	Jaigir Bakhsisi.	Total.
		B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.
	Brought forward	9,817 10 14	1,705 1 9	.....	422 17 6	335 18 6	83 19 19	50 12 12	153 12 0	12,569 12 6
105	Sitanath Sarma	22 18 4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	22 18 4
106	Radhanath Sarma	18 14 15	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	18 14 15
107	Kamalakanta Sarma	34 10 14	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	34 10 14
108	Jajnanath Bhattacharya	20 10 3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	20 10 3
109	Bhuminath Sarma	19 6 10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	19 6 10
110	Maheshanandan Sarma and others ...	5 12 10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5 12 10
111	Padmakanta Chakravarti and others ...	0 10 14	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0 10 14
112	Ditto	23 12 17	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	23 12 17
113	Lakshmikanta Sarma and another ...	30 17 7	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	30 17 7
114	Dinanath Dharmadhyakshya	18 14 14	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	18 14 14
115	Lakshmikanta Chakravarti	12 10 10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12 10 10

116	Kamalakanta Sarma	2 18 11	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2 18 11
117	Tarakanta Chakravarti	43 8 4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	43 8 4
118	Jayantanath Chakravarti	29 5 10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	29 5 10
119	Bhubanmohan Bakhsi	.....	26 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	26 0 0
120	Shyamasundari Debya and others ...	104 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	104 0 0
121	Madhabdev Sarma and others	93 18 8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	93 18 8
122	Krishneswar Karji and others	.....	.....	.....	187 16 4	.....	.....	.....	.....	187 16 4
123	Pransing Kuwar and others	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	64 0 0	.....	64 0 0
124	Bidhunath Sarma...	56 15 11	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	56 15 11
125	Prabhavati Debya	21 12 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	21 12 0
126	Dhanada Devya	47 15 12	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	47 15 12
127	Biswamvar Misir	12 3 6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12 3 6
128	Upendranarayan Kuwar (for life) ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	100 0 0	.....	.....	.....	100 0 0
129	Lakshindranarayan Kuwar (do.) ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	7 14 16	.....	.....	.....	7 14 16
130	Maheswari Isarani (do.) ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	10 5 10	.....	.....	.....	10 5 10
	Carried over ...	10,437 6 14	1,731 1 9	.....	610 13 10	453 18 12	83 19 19	114 12 12	153 12 0	13,585 4 16

Serial Number.	Names of holders.	Description of the holdings.								
		Brahmotter.	Debotter.	Bakhsisi Lakhiraj.	Lakhiraj.	Petbhatta.	Pirpal.	Jaigir Paitriki.	Jaigir Bakhsisi.	Total.
		B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.
	Brought forward... ...	10,437 6 14	1,731 1 9	.....	610 13 10	453 18 12	83 19 19	114 12 12	153 12 0	13,585 4 16
131	Bhabendranarayan Kuwar	.....	.....	.....	.....	19 10 6	.....	.....	.....	19 10 6
132	Lalitpriya Aye and others	.....	.....	.....	.....	486 8 0	.....	.....	.....	486 8 0
133	Mukunda Sing Kuwar	.....	.....	.....	.....	54 0 4	.....	.....	.....	54 0 4
134	Ratneswar Sing Kuwar	.....	.....	.....	.....	100 0 0	.....	.....	.....	100 0 0
135	Padma Sing Kuwar	.....	.....	.....	.....	100 0 0	.....	.....	.....	100 0 0
136	Gangaprasad Isore and others	.....	.....	.....	.....	204 16 0	.....	.....	.....	204 16 0
137	Durga Sing Kuwar and another ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	100 0 0	.....	.....	.....	100 0 0
138	Dibyamayi Kuwari	.....	.....	.....	.....	50 0 0	.....	.....	.....	50 0 0
139	Lord Bishop	.....	.....	.....	1 10 8	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 10 8
140	Bishnusankar Chakravarti	15 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15 0 0
141	Padmakanta Chakravarti	4 8 14	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4 8 14

142	Ramnath Chakravarti	11 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11 0 0
143	Tarakanath Chakravarti...	17 18 8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	. ...	.....	17 18 8
144	Anandasankar Chakravarti	24 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	24 0 0
145	Muktanandan Bhattacharya	5 5 16	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5 5 16
146	Bhabaniram Bhattacharya	23 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	23 0 0
147	Bhanuram Sarma	13 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13 0 0
148	Matwanath Bhattacharya	10 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10 0 0
149	Parbatinath Chakravarti	8 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8 0 0
150	Madhavdev Chakravarti...	7 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7 0 0
151	Dineswar Chakravarti	10 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10 0 0
152	Kesavanath Chakravarti	8 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8 0 0
153	Hiranyanath Sarma	9 9 14	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9 9 14
154	Muktiram Bhattacharya	12 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12 0 0
155	Indraprasad Chakravarti	10 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10 0 0
156	Thaneswar Chakravarti	7 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7 0 0
	Carried over ...	10,632 9 6	1,731 1 9	.....	612 3 18	1568 3 18	83 19 19	114 12 12	153 12 0	14,896 12 6

Serial Number.	Names of Holders.	Description of the Holdings.								
		Brahmotter.	Debotter.	Bakhsisi Lakhiraj.	Lakhiraj.	Petbhata.	Pirpal.	Jaigir Paitriki.	Jaigir Bakhsisi.	Total.
		B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.
	Brought forward ...	10,632 9 6	1,731 1 9	.....	612 3 18	1,568 13 2	83 19 19	114 12 12	153 12 0	14,896 12 6
157	Joyapati Chakravarti	7 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7 0 0
158	Debnandan Goswami	9 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9 0 0
159	Dharaniram Bhattacharya	7 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7 0 0
160	Tarinideb Chakravarti	12 12 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12 12 0
161	Prasanna Nandan Sarma	7 5 15	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7 5 15
162	Bhumidhar Chakravarti	7 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7 0 0
163	Suryadhar Chakravarti	5 14 18	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5 14 18
164	Sidhanath Bidyabagish	10 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10 0 0
165	Baninath Nyayapanchanan	4 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4 0 0
166	Dinanath Bhattcharya	4 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4 0 0
167	Devnandan Chakravarti	8 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8 0 0

168	Laksminath Chakravarti...	4 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4 0 0
169	Rajaninath Chakravarti	3 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 0 0
170	Srinath Chakravarti	3 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 0 0
171	Durgakanta Chakavarti	8 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8 0 0
172	Jahnavinath Bhattacharya	5 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5 0 0
173	Dharmapal Sarma	3 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 0 0
174	Kailashnath Chakravati	3 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 0 0
175	Haranath Bhattacharya	4 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4 0 0
176	Herambanath Bhattacharya	3 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 0 0
177	Debendranath Bhattacharya	3 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 0 0
178	Kaliprasad Chakravarti	3 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 0 0
179	Jogisanandan Siromani	5 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5 0 0
180	Dinesanandan Chakravarti	5 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5 0 0
181	Bhabanath Bhattacharya	5 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5 0 0
182	Pankajahari Karji	8 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8 0 0
	Carried over ...	10,779 1 19	1,731 1 9	.....	612 3 18	1,568 13 2	83 19 19	114 12 12	153 12 0	15,043 4 19

Serial Number.	NAMES OF HOLDERS.	DESCRIPTION OF THE HOLDINGS.								
		Brahmotter.	Debotter.	Bakhsisi Lakhiraj.	Lakhiraj.	Petbhata.	Pirpal.	Jaigir Paitriki.	Jaigir Bakhsisi.	Total.
		B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.
	Brought forward ...	10,779 1 19	1,731 1 9	.....	612 3 18	1,564 13 2	83 19 19	114 12 12	153 12 0	15,043 4 19
183	Sasadhar Chakravarti	4 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4 0 0
184	Kamalanath Sarma	7 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7 0 0
185	Jagadatta Misir	5 10 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5 10 0
186	Baidyanath Chakravarti	10 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10 0 0
187	Bambholanath Chakravarti	5 10 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5 10 0
188	Bipradeb Sarma	12 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12 0 0
189	Bhabanath Chakravarti	5 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5 0 0
190	Kailasnath Chakravarti	5 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5 0 0
191	Bhaibyanath Sarma	5 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5 0 0
192	Ramnath Chakravarti	10 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10 0 0
193	Ramyadeb Medi	8 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8 0 0

194	Nilagriva Misir	6 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6 0 0
195	Indradhar Chakravarti	4 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4 0 0
196	Kumudini Debya	4 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4 0 0
197	Chandradeb Medi	8 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8 0 0
198	Tarininath Chakravarti	5 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5 0 0
199	Prasannanath Chakravarti	3 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 0 0
200	Saradanandan Chakravarti	5 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5 0 0
201	Chintamani Chakravarti...	5 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5 0 0
202	Mahipal Chakravarti	4 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4 0 0
203	Dharmeswari Debya	25 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	25 0 0
204	Sarvanath Deota	12 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12 0 0
205	Gangaprasad Chakravarti	5 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5 0 0
206	Nandaprasad Chakravarti	5 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5 0 0
207	Lakshmikanta Chakravarti	10 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10 0 0
208	Lakshminarayan Chakravarti	10 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10 0 0
		10,957 1 19	1,731 1 9	.....	612 3 18	1,568 13 2	83 19 19	114 12 12	153 12 0	15.221 4 19

Serial Number.	Names of holders.	DESCRIPTION OF THE HOLDINGS.							
		Brahmotter.	Debotter.	Bakhsisi-Lakhiraj.	Lakhiraj.	Petbhata.	Pirpal.	Jaigir Paitriki.	Jaigir Bakhsisi.	Total.
		B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.
	Brought forward ...	10,957 1 19	1,731 1 9	.....	612 3 18	1,568 13 2	83 19 19	114 12 12	153 12 0	15,221 4 19
209	Hemnath Chakravarti	3 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 0 0
210	Kirtinath Chakravarti	3 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 0 0
211	Narmadanath Chakravarti	3 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 0 0
212	Hemantanath Chakravarti	5 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5 0 0
213	Ramanath Deota	3 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 0 0
214	Iswarnath Deota	3 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 0 0
215	Khagendranath Deota	12 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12 0 0
216	Lakshminath Deota	3 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 0 0
217	Kalidatta Misir	5 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5 0 0
218	Dinanath Chakravarti	4 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4 0 0

219	Mukunda Sarma	6 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6 0 0
220	Prandatta Misra	6 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6 0 0
221	Golaknath Chakravarti	4 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4 0 0
222	Chintamani Sarma	5 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5 0 0
223	Padmakanta Chakravarti	3 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 0 0
224	Baradasundari Debya	4 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4 0 0
225	Lakshmidev Sarma	5 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5 0 0
226	Dambarnath Sarma	3 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 0 0
227	Harinath Misra	6 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6 0 0
228	Syamchandra Mustafi	411 7 18	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	411 7 18
229	Kumar Bhavendra Narayan and another	.....	.....	.....	.....	12 14 10	.....	.....	.....	12 14 10
	Total	11,444 10 0	1,731 1 9	.....	612 3 18	2281 7 12	83 19 19	114 12 12 †	153 12 0 †	16,421 7 10 °

*This includes 19B. 1K 13D. of Brahmotter in Taluk Nutan Maynaguri and 3B. 6K. 4D. of Petbhata in Taluk Sonari, granted after the Re-settlement.

† This *Jaigir* is in fact a rent-free grant, and is not to be confounded with *Service-land*.

No. II.—Particulars of rent-free lands.—**PARGANA TUFANGUNJ.**

Serial Number.	Names of holders.	Description of the holdings.							
		Brahmotter.	Debotter.	Bakhsisi Lakhiraj.	Lakhiraj.	Petbhata.	Pirpal.	Jaigir Paitriki.	Jaigir Bakhsisi.	Total.
		B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.
1	Syamchander Mustafi	70 5 4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	70 5 4
2	Nilmani Sarma	2 18 8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2 18 8
3	Mohishanandan Chakravarti and others...	267 19 5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	267 19 5
4	Mahisanandan Chakravarti and others ...	91 13 1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	91 13 1
5	Ratneswari Debya	218 5 8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	218 5 8
6	Ramnath Sarma	95 3 3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	95 3 3
7	Dinanath Dharmadhakshya	127 6 12	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	127 6 12
8	Sridhar Sarma	23 8 8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	23 8 8
9	Jajneswari Debya	32 10 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	32 10 0
10	Lakshmipriya Debya	13 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13 0 0
11	Bhavanath Sarma	485 14 16	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	485 14 16
12	Kalabati and Dulali Debya	83 7 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	83 7 0

13	Kalabati Debya	187 16 4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	187 16 4
14	Durgamayi Debya and others	46 16 16	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	46 16 16
15	Kirtinath Sarma and others	375 4 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	375 4 0
16	Madhavanath Sarma	9 15 1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9 15 1
17	Chandrakanta Sarma and others ...	65 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	65 0 0
18	Sivanath Sarma	29 2 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	29 2 0
19	Nilmani Sarma	.....	32 3 6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	32 3 6
20	Krishna Chandra Jamdaria	.....	69 8 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	69 8 0
21	Rabindranarayan Kuwar and others ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	2500 0 0	.....	.....	.....	2,500 0 0
22	Mahendranarayan Bhattacharya ...	29 14 6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	29 14 6
	Total ...	2,254 19 12	91 11 6	.....	.....	2,500 0 0	.....	.....	.....	4,846 10 18

No. III.—*Lands held at half rates.*

Serial No.	Names of holders.	Nature of holdings.	Quantity of land.	Remarks
	PARGANA MEKHLIGUNJ.		B. K. D.	
1	Gunamani and Barada Sundari Devya	Brahmotter.	1,135 4 11	
2	Shivarudra Maitra ...	Ditto	407 14 7	
	Total ...	.....	1,542 18 18	
	PARGANA MATHABHANGA.			
1	Shulochana Devya ...	Brahmotter	76 18 16	For life
2	Bidhu Nath Sarma ...	Ditto	100 0 0	
3	Prosanna Chandra Gosvami	Ditto	72 18 19	For life
	Total ...	.....	249 17 15	
	PARGANA LALBAZAR.			
1	Prosanna Mayi Devya ...	Mokarari	3,507 4 0	For life
2	Durga Nath Rai ...	Ditto	1,087 8 3*	
3	Joy Narayan Misra ...	Brahmotter	14 1 0	
4	Kali Krishna Munshi ...	Ditto	140 10 8	
5	Mahimaranjan Rai Chaudhuri	Petbhata	6,727 4 3	For life
6	Gunamani and Barada Sundari Devya	Brahmotter	208 0 0	
7	Chandramani Devya ...	Ditto	102 4 7	
	Total	.....	11,786 12 11	

* For life time of Prasanna Mayi Devya.

Serial No.	Names of holders.	Nature of holdings.	Quantity of land. B. K. D.	Remarks
	PARGANA DINHATA.			
1	Lakshmi Priya Devya ...	Brahmotter	38 14 15	
2	Lakmi Narayan Sarma ...	Ditto	26 0 0	
3	Dina Nath Sarma ...	Ditto	35 2 12	
4	Jagat Chandra Hishabia ...	Ditto	49 18 0	
5	Purneshwari Devya ...	Ditto	46 16 16	
6	Prithigir Sanysi	Debuttar	40 15 0	
7	Umabati Devya	Brahmotter	180 8 10	
8	Ambica Prosad Buxi and others ...	Ditto	46 16 16	
9	Debi Prosad Sarma and others ...	Ditto	16 5 0	
10	Bikramananda Sarma and others ...	Ditto	93 13 12	
11	Bykunta Chandra Batta-cherji ...	Ditto	35 2 12	
12	Manmohan Buxi ...	Mokarari	98 19 4	
13	Ditto	Ditto	4 14 0	
14	Bhagabati Devya... ...	Ditto	20 13 8	
15	Bykunta Chandra Mustafi	Brahmotter	22 17 19	
16	Ditto	Ditto	16 7 18	
17	Prasanna Mayi Devya ...	Ditto	3 11 18	
18	Bhagabati Devya and others	Ditto	235 15 8	
	Carried over ...	.....	1,012 13 8	

Serial No.	Name of holders.	Nature of holdings.	Quantity of land. B. K. D.	Remarks
	Brought forward ...	.....	1,012 13 8	
19	Prasannamayi Devya ...	Brahmotter	449 16 12	
20	Ditto ditto ...	Ditto	121 10 7	
21	Nilmaney Dhupi	Ditto	29 0 0	
22	Sreenath Chakravarti ...	Ditto	13 0 0	
23	Prasannamayi Devya ...	Mokorari	95 17 15	
24	Jayanti Devya	Brahmotter	52 0 0	
25	Dhanmayi, Nityamayi Devya	Ditto	1,042 17 15	
26	Kalikrishna Munshi ...	Ditto	27 15 2	
27	Hara Gobinda Hishabia ...	Ditto	17 11 6	
28	Chandra Mohan Bhttacharya ...	Ditto	17 11 6	
29	Panchananda Sarma ...	Ditto	11 14 4	
30	Bykunta Chandra Bhattacharya ...	Ditto	16 0 11	
31	Bhagabati Devya ...	Ditto	117 0 0	
32	Madhabananda Gosvami ...	Ditto	50 17 4	
33	Indramani Devya ...	Ditto	214 15 7	
34	Tarini Prasad Hishabia ...	Ditto	61 1 0	
35	Rajeswar Sarma	Ditto	7 3 17	
36	Ram Nath Sarma ...	Ditto	17 7 2	
37	Guru Narayan Kuwar ...	Petbhata	156 3 18	
	Carried over ...	.....	3,531 16 14	

Serial No.	Names of holders.	Nature of holdings.	Quantity of land. B. K. D.	Remarks
	Brought forward ...	.....	3,531 16 14	
38	Kali Narayan Kouar ...	Petbhata	131 13 3	
39	Umesh Chandra Hishabia	Dtito	39 0 0	
40	Taramohan Sarma ...	Ditto	26 0 0	
41	Nilmony Sarma	Ditto	27 16 0	
42	Chandra Nath Sarma ...	Ditto	98 15 0	
53	Kamala Kanta Sarma ...	Ditto	26 0 0	
44	Tara Moyi Devya ...	Ditto	143 0 0	
45	Boidynath and Shidha Sarma	Ditto	77 0 2	
46	Umesh Chandaa Hishabia	Ditto	32 0 10	
47	Tara Moyi Devya ...	Ditto	21 1 10	
48	Ditto	Ditto	198 15 16	
49	Harogobinda Hishabia ...	Ditto	52 0 0	
50	Rashbehari Rudra ...	Ditto	65 0 0	
51	Ditto	Ditto	104 0 0	
52	Tara Moni Devya ...	Ditto	50 1 4	
	Total	.....	4,623 19 19	

Serial No.	Names of holders.	Nature of holdings.	Quantity of land.	Remarks
	PARGANA COOCH BEHAR.		B. K. D.	
1	Ram Chandra Sarkar ...	Debotter	27 0 0	
2	Sham Chandra Mustafi ...	Brahmotra	46 9 8	
3	Gunamani and Boroda Sundari Devya ...	Ditto	393 6 8	
4	Dino Bundhu Mahapatra...	Ditto	61 16 3	
5	Bishnu Sankar Chakravarti	Ditto	17 14 1	
6	Umabati Devya	Ditto	53 2 16	
7	Taramayi Devya	Ditto	117 0 0	
8	Ram Nath Sarma and others ...	Ditto	24 16 10	
9	Gaur Kanta Barua ...	Debotter	108 0 0	
10	Haragobinda Hishabia ...	Brahmoter	2 6 12	
11	Upendra Narayan Konar	Petbhata	319 5 5	
12	Mahamaya Devya ...	Brahmoter	24 12 16	
13	Tara Nath Sarma ...	Ditto	98 7 16	
14	Purnamayi Devya ...	Ditto	60 0 0	
15	Tar Mayi Devya ...	Ditto	56 12 6	
16	Kumar Karindra Narayan	Petbhata	237 19 12	
17	Punendra Sarma ...	Brahmoter	16 1 14	
18	Mahendra Nath Sarma ...	Ditto	210 0 5	
19	Bhaba Deb Sarma ...	Ditto	24 1 3	
20	Lakshmi Prasad Sarma ...	Ditto	29 12 16	
	Carried over ...		1,928 5 11	

Serial No.	Names of holders.	Nature of holdings.	Quantity of land. B. K. D.	Remarks
	Brought forward ...		1,928 5 11	
21	Umabati Devya and others	Ditto	18 15 12	
22	Tatva Nath Sarma ...	Ditto	38 19 7	
23	Gunamani Devya ...	Ditto	18 17 18	
24	Jita Nath Sarma	Ditto	15 12 19	
25	Tatvesh Sarma	Ditto	42 8 2	
26	Banik Nath Sarma ...	Ditto	42 16 15	
27	Baneshwar Sarma ...	Ditto	12 19 15	
28	Jita Kanta Sarma ...	Ditto	82 12 3	
29	Ram Nath Sarma ...	Ditto	2 14 10	
30	Bijay Datta Bhattacharja	Ditto	168 14 2	
31	Chandreswari Devya ...	Ditto	46 1 19	
	Total		2,418 18 13	

PARGANA TUFANGUNJ.

1	Bikramanunda Chakravarti and others ...	Ditto	70 5 4	
2	Krishna Chandra Jamdaria	Ditto	23 8 2	
3	Mahendra Nath Sarma ...	Ditto	93 13 12	
4	Haripriya Devya	Ditto	19 18 17	
5	Bhabadev Sarma	Ditto	69 10 10	
6	Bhabani Devya	Ditto	31 16 18	
	Total	.....	308 13 3	

No. IV.—*Description and area of lands in the State of Cooch Behar which have been re-settled.*

Serial No.	Description of land.	Area.
		B K. D
1	Betelnut	7,632 12 1
2	Homestead...	24,538 9 4
3	Garden	4,361 10 13
4	Bamboo	50,119 11 15
5	Tobacco 1st class	33,152 14 9
6	Ditto 2nd class	42,326 12 8
7	Ditto 3rd class	30,4 17 17 6
8	Cultivated lands other than tobacco lands—1st class.	2,92,122 8 18
9	Ditto 2nd class	3,99,325 5 7
10	Ditto 3rd class	4,12,814 16 10
11	Ditto 4th class	2,22,045 13 13
12	Thatching grass	67,951 17 14
13	Beels and small fisheries ...	5,796 13 4
14	Laikpatit	4,87,522 10 17
15	Garlaikpatit	42,926 15 8
16	Bunder	641 10 2
	Total ...	21,23,696 19 9

No. IV.—*Detailed classification of lands of different tracts and Parganas which have been re-settled.*

Serial No	Names of Parganas and tracts.	Description of land.	Area. B.	K.	D.
1	Mekhligunj ... (without Rahimgunj, and Kotebhajni and Teldhar chhits)	Betelnut	450	5	12
2	„	Homestead	1,535	14	17
3	„	Garden	193	10	4
4	„	Bamboo	3,387	17	10
5	„	Tobacco 1st class ...	1,214	15	14
6	„	Ditto 2nd class ...	4,072	2	9
7	„	Ditto 3rd class ...	3,530	15	8
8	„	Cultivated lands other than tobacco lands 1st class.	24,752	14	17
9	„	Ditto 2nd class ...	26,710	16	11
10	„	Ditto 3rd class ...	30,790	9	12
11	„	Ditto 4th class ...	20,575	0	8
12	„	Thatching grass ...	5,297	19	16
13	„	Beels and small fisheries	348	17	14
14	„	Laik Patit	26,592	8	3
15	„	Garlaik Patit ...	6,992	16	5
16	„	Bunder	196	9	17
		Total ...	1,56,642	14	18

Serial No.	Names of Parganas and tracts.	Description of land.	Area.
			B. K. D.
1	Mekhligunj—	Betelnut	60 7 13
2	Rahimgunj ...	Homstead	966 18 12
3	,,	Garden	89 16 1
4	,,	Bamboo	1,618 17 13
5	,,	Tobacco 1st class ...	192 13 5
6	,,	Ditto 2nd class ...	823 0 12
7	,,	Ditto 3rd class ...	1,174 2 12
8	,,	Cultivated lands other than tobacco lands 1st class ...	14,216 10 10
9	,,	Ditto 2nd class ...	17,063 8 19
10	,,	Ditto 3rd class ...	18,283 9 19
11	,,	Thaching grass ...	9,476 2 13
12	,,	Ditto 4th class ...	2,817 2 12
13	,,	Beels and small fisheries ...	363 14 12
14	,,	Laik Patit	19,394 15 11
15	,,	Garlaik Patit ...	2,489 7 1
16	,,	Bunder	186 3 8
		Total	89,216 10 12

Serial No.	Names of Parganas and tracts.	Description of land.	Area		
			B.	K.	D.
1	Mekhligunj—	Betelnut	29	2	12
2	Detached pieces of lands called Kote-bhajni &c.	Homestead... ...	204	6	15
3	,,	Garden	25	4	4
4	,,	Bamboo	449	5	18
5	,,	Tobacco 1st class ...	59	16	8
6	,,	Ditto 2nd class ...	300	1	9
7	,,	Ditto 3rd class ...	294	6	0
8	,,	Cultivated lands other than tobacco lands—1st class.	4,735	8	17
9	,,	Ditto 2nd class ...	3,738	3	8
10	,,	Ditto 3rd class ...	3,491	0	14
11	,,	Ditto 4th class ...	2,130	17	9
12	,,	Thatching grass ...	1,499	4	16
13	,,	Beels and small fisheries	76	12	8
14	,,	Laik Patit	4,547	8	14
15	,,	Garlaik Patit ...	228	7	17
16	,,	Bunder	.....		
		Total ...	21,809	7	9

Serial No.	Names of Parganas and tracts.	Discription of land.	Area.
			B. K. D.
1	Mekhligunj—	Betelnut	29 9 14
2	Teldhar Chhit. ...	Homestead ...	293 15 17
3	,,	Garden	103 15 1
4	,,	Bamboo	903 5 15
5	,,	Tobacco 1st class ...	7 0 14
6	,,	Ditto 2nd class ...	24 8 4
7	,,	Ditto 3rd class ...	98 6 13
8	,,	Cultivated lands other than tobacco lands 1st class ...	4,302 10 0
9	,,	Ditto 2nd class ...	5,654 12 3
10	,,	Ditto 3rd class ...	5,418 5 16
11	,,	Ditto 4th class ...	3,444 10 0
12	,,	Thatching grass ...	835 18 0
13	,,	Beels and small fisherses ...	91 6 17
14	,,	Laik Patit	5,743 19 8
15	,,	Garlaik Patit ...	2,648 18 0
16	,,	Bunder	.....
		Total	29,596 16 19

Serial No.	Names of Parganas lands.	Description of lands.	Area. B. K. D.
1	Mathabhanga ... (without Banskata and Baischalla Chhits.)	Betelnut	1,394 10 16
2	„	Homestead	3,728 13 0
3	„	Garden	778 17 9
4	„	Bamboo	9,396 16 8
5	„	Tobacco 1st class ...	7,435 9 16
6	„	Ditto 2nd class ...	15,130 16 17
7	„	Ditto 3rd class ...	8,478 1 18
8	„	Cultivated lands other than tobacco lands 1st class ...	61,418 18 19
9	„	Ditto 2nd class ...	60,655 9 5
10	„	Ditto 3rd class ...	57,814 15 0
11	„	Ditto 4th class ...	36,214 10 19
12	„	Thatching grass ...	13,177 0 12
13	„	Beels and small fisheries ...	994 7 0
14	„	Laik patit	92,389 1 11
15	„	Garlaik patit ..	7,362 13 3
16		Bunder	30 16 12
		Total ...	3,76,400 19 5

Serial No	Names of Parganas and tracts.	Description of lands.	Area.
			B. K. D.
1	Mathabhanga—	Betelnut	5 11 16
2	Banshkata chhit	Homestead	21 12 12
3	,,	Garden	3 7 14
4	,,	Bamboo	56 0 19
5	,,	Tobacco 1st class ...	31 10 17
6	,,	Ditto 2nd class ...	108 18 5
7	,,	Ditto 3rd class ...	41 3 1
8	,,	Cultivated lands other than tobacco lands 1st class ...	651 4 12
9	,,	Ditto 2nd class ...	623 6 15
10	,,	Ditto 3rd class ...	457 5 11
11	,,	Ditto 4th class ...	218 0 14
12	,,	Thatching grass ...	46 12 1
13	,,	Beels and small fisheries ...	1 6 13
14	,,	Laik patit	470 11 9
15	,,	Garlaik patit ...	37 17 11
16	,,	Bunder	.....
		Total	2774 10 10

Serial No.	Names of Parganas and tracts.	Description of lands.	Area.
			B. K. D.
1	Mathabhanga—	Betelnut	34 17 15
2	Baishchala chhit	Homestead	32 12 14
3	,,	Garden	11 11 14
4	,,	Bamboo	111 6 3
5	,,	Tobacco 1st class ...	9 18 9
6	,,	Ditto 2nd class ...	36 2 8
7	,,	Ditto 3rd class ...	104 16 15
8	,,	Cultivated lands other than tobacco lands 1st class ...	525 10 1
9	,,	Ditto 2nd class ...	535 5 17
10	,,	Ditto 3rd class ...	649 3 6
11	,,	Ditto 4th class ...	328 6 11
12	,,	Thatching grass ...	38 10 1
13	,,	Beels and small fisheries ...	2 18 5
14	,,	Laik patit	551 10 8
15	,,	Garlaik patit ...	23 16 15
16	,,	Bunder	.....
		Tottal ...	2996 7 2

Serial No.	Names of Parganas and tracts.	Description of lands.	Area.
			B. K. D.
1	Lalbazar ...	Betelnut	301 11 2
2	,,	Homestead	2,907 13 13
3	,,	Garden	444 0 0
4	,,	Bamboo	7,693 4 19
5	,,	Tabacco 1st class ...	17,934 8 14
6	,,	Ditto 2nd class ...	8,694 18 7
7	,,	Ditto 3rd class ...	3,079 18 4
8	,,	Cultivated lands other than tobacco lands 1st class ...	35,687 17 19
9	,,	Ditto 2nd class ...	43,985 10 19
10	,,	Ditto 3rd class ...	53,356 17 16
11	,,	Ditto 4th class ...	49,720 6 14
12	,,	Thatching grass ...	8,978 2 1
13	,,	Beels and small fisheries ...	1,176 16 2
14	,,	Laik patit	50,008 5 4
15	,,	Garlaik patit ...	3,822 13 6
16	,,	Bunder	9 13 6
		Total ...	2,87,801 18 6

Serial No.	Names of Parganas and tracts.	Description of lands.	Area.
			B. K. D.
1	Dinhata ...	Betelnut	1,406 7 11
2	,,	Homestead	6,344 3 4
3	,,	Garden	1,015 8 14
4	,,	Bamboo	10,197 4 5
5	,,	Tobacco 1st class ...	2,867 7 10
6	,,	Ditto 2nd class ...	5,484 8 5
7	,,	Ditto 3rd class ...	3,639 11 13
8	,,	Cultivated lands other than tobacco lands 1st class ...	66,554 1 0
9	,,	Ditto 2nd class ...	94,760 16 17
10	,,	Ditto 3rd class ...	67,486 0 6
11	,,	Ditto 4th class ...	19,655 18 2
12	,,	Thatching grass ...	14,293 3 14
13	,,	Beels and small fisheries ...	991 7 17
14	,,	Laik patit	60,175 13 16
15	,,	Garlaik patit ...	6,689 7 17
16	,,	Bunder	38 12 13
		Total ...	3,61,599 13 4

Serial No.	Names of Parganas and tracts.	Description of lands.	Area. B. K. D.
1	Cooch Behar ... (without Gird Chowra)	Betelnut	1,894 18 14
2	,,	Homestead	5,018 12 1
3	,,	Garden	766 9 15
4	,,	Bamboo	9,263 1 11
5	,,	Tobacco 1st class ...	3,222 18 5
6	,,	Ditto 2nd class ...	7,043 17 5
7	,,	Ditto 3rd class ...	6,682 6 13
8	,,	Cultivated lands other than tobacco lands 1st class ...	44,512 15 13
9	,,	Ditto 2nd class ...	79,346 4 0
10	,,	Ditto 3rd class ...	94,556 15 8
11	,,	Ditto 4th class ...	32,763 11 2
12	,,	Thatching grass ...	12,725 12 14
13	,,	Beels and small fisheries ...	906 13 9
14	,,	Laik patit	86,815 13 5
15	,,	Garlaik patit ...	8,105 16 11
16	,,	Bunder	68 17 5
		Total	3,91,694 3 11

Serial No.	Names of Parganas and tracts.	Description of land.	Area.
			B. K. D.
1	Cooch Behar—Gird Chowra	Betelnut	637 8 14
2	,,	Homestead	810 11 11
3	,,	Garden	287 19 17
4	,,	Bamboo	2,130 14 10
5	,,	Tobacco 1st class ...	140 15 4
6	,,	Ditto 2nd class ...	501 1 10
7	,,	Ditto 3rd class ...	2,352 17 1
8	,,	Cultivated lands other than tobacco lands 1st class ...	10,679 8 3
9	,,	Ditto 2nd class ...	17,124 18 14
10	,,	Ditto 3rd class ...	20,454 13 2
11	,,	Ditto 4th class ...	8,164 3 7
12	,,	Thatching grass ...	1,634 10 18
13	,,	Beels and small fisheries ...	141 15 16
14	,,	Laik patit	50,706 19 13
15	,,	Garlaik patit ...	1,135 2 5
16	,,	Bunder	16 9 13
		Total	1,16,919 9 18

Serial No	Names of Parganas and tracts.	Description of lands.	Area. B. K. D.
1	Tufangunj ... (without Gird Shandara and Bilat Bishguri.)	Betelnut	366 10 11
2	,,	Homestead	1,438 12 12
3	,,	Garden	316 8 16
4	,,	Bamboo	2,309 18 9
5	,,	Tobacco 1st class ...	30 4 3
6	,,	Ditto 2nd class ...	77 15 17
7	,,	Ditto 3rd class ...	416 15 2
8	,,	Cultivated lands other than tobacco lands 1st class ...	14,871 11 6
9	,,	Ditto 2nd class ...	29,099 0 14
10	,,	Ditto 3rd class ...	29,915 1 16
11	,,	Ditto 4th class	16,140 13 17
12	,,	Thatching grass ...	4,933 10 3
13	,,	Beels and small fisheries ...	383 0 17
14	,,	Laik patit	34,374 10 14
15	,,	Garlaik patit ...	2,060 6 6
16	,,	Bunder	41 10 2
		Total ...	1,36,775 11 5

Serial No.	Names of Parganas and tracts.	Description of lands.	Area. B. K. D.
1	Tufangunj—Gird Shandara.	Betelnut	894 2 1
2	,,	Homestead	691 0 5
3	,,	Garden	171 6 7
4	,,	Bamboo	1,642 11 3
5	,,	Tobacco 1st class ...	5 15 10
6	,,	Ditto 2nd class ...	27 3 19
7	,,	Ditto 3rd class ...	147 12 11
8	,,	Cultivated lands other than tobacco lands 1st class ...	8,515 4 9
9	,,	Ditto 2nd class ...	13,752 6 6
10	,,	Ditto 3rd class ...	16,329 7 9
11	,,	Ditto 4th class ...	8,029 10 0
12	,,	Thatching grass ...	1,279 8 17
13	,,	Beels and small fisheries ...	106 10 4
14	,,	Laik patit	20,489 10 15
15	,,	Garlaik patit ..	702 15 4
16	,,	Bunder	7 8 13
		Total ...	72,791 13 13

Serial No	Names of Parganas and tracts.	Description of lands.	Area.
			B. K. D.
1	Tufangunj—Bilat Bishguri	Betelnut	129 7 10
2	,,	Homestead	544 1 11
3	,,	Garden	153 14 17
4	,,	Bamboo	960 6 16
5	,,	Tobacco 1st class ...	.....
6	,,	Ditto 2nd class ...	1 17 1
7	,,	Ditto 3rd class ...	377 3 15
8	,,	Cultivated lands other than tobacco lands 1st class ...	698 12 12
9	,,	Ditto 2nd class .	6,275 9 19
10	,,	Ditto 3rd class ...	15,811 10 16
11	,,	Ditto 4th class	15,184 1 17
12	,,	Thatching grass ...	395 2 9
13	,,	Beels and small fisheries ...	211 5 10
14	,,	Laik patit	35,262 2 5
15	,,	Garlaik patit ...	626 17 7
16	,,	Bunder	45 8 13
		Total ...	76,677 2 17

No. V.—*Statement showing the number of joteders and under-tenants of different grades, as also the quantity of land separately held by them, concerened with the area under re-settlement.*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			QUANTITY OF LAND DIRECTLY HELD BY								NUMBER OF THE UNDER-TENURES.					
Name of Pargana.	Name of mehal.	Total of assessed land.	Jotes.	Chukanis.	Dar-Chukanis.	Daradar Chukanis.	Tasya Chukanis.	Tali Chukanis	Tasya-Tali Chukanis.	Number of Jotes.	Chukanis.	Dar-chukanis.	Daradar-chukanis.	Tasya-chukanis.	Tali-chukanis.	Tasya-Tali-chukanis.
		B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.							
Mekhligunj ..	.. ..	2,97,255 9 18	89,010 7 18	1,37,991 5 18	54,903 17 3	13,231 11 9	2,053 17 5	67 3 17	7 6 8	2,321	6,291	2,899	692	103	13	3
Mathabhanga ..	.....	3,82,171 16 17	70,006 9 4	1,64,393 18 5	1,07,325 13 10	33,901 15 1	5,476 16 1	918 10 13	148 14 3	2,529	5,820	5,061	2,020	412	73	10
Lalbazar ..	....	2,87,891 18 6	73,659 2 11	1,54,219 0 11	65,216 11 18	13,061 8 1	1,146 16 11	65 18 15	....	2,604	5,196	3,146	721	71	8	0
Dinhata ..	.. ..	3,61,599 13 4	61,651 9 4	1,50,614 12 14	1,12,077 18 9	31,507 3 18	5,203 18 11	532 6 5	12 4 0	3,980	11,717	12,419	5,160	1,121	128	8
Cooch Behar ..	.....	5,08,613 13 9	1,53,632 15 3	2,28,695 19 19	98,656 11 14	23,052 4 8	2,550 8 0	36 14 5	....	5,337	10,668	6,906	1,981	297	6	0
Tufangunj ..	.. ..	2,86,244 7 15	1,20,140 0 10	1,15,571 13 9	40,147 8 19	8,847 11 14	1,237 10 3	.....	.. .	2,965	3,957	2,203	559	99	0	0
Total ..	....	21,23,896 19 9	5,70,100 4 19	9,31,616 10 16	4,78,093 1 13	1,23,601 17 11	17,678 6 13	1,620 13 15	168 4 11	18,836	43,539	32,634	11,136	2,093	228	21

No. V.—*Number of jotedars and undertenants, and the land held by them.*

MEKHLIGUNJ.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Name of Pargana.	Name of Mohal.	Total of assessed land.	QUANTITY OF LAND DIRECTLY HELD BY.							Number of Jotedars.	NUMBER OF THE UNDER-TENURES.					
			Jotes.	Chukanis.	Dár-Chukanis.	Dara-dar Chukanis.	Tasya Chukanis.	Tali Chukanis.	Tasya-Tali Chukanis.		Chukanis.	Dar-chukanis.	Darpatni-chukanis.	Tasya-chukanis.	Tali-chukanis.	Tasya-Tali chukanis.
		B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.							
Mekhligunj ..	Mal ...	1,14,607 6 19	43,044 6 13	61,011 8 2	29,715 0 2	9,191 15 3	1,590 14 16	53 12 4	....	983	2,514	1,308	401	61	4	...
Ditto	Debo-tter.	12,034 17 19	1,054 7 11	4,771 6 4	3,994 3 19	1,816 12 18	379 11 4	11 9 14	7 6 8	32	154	161	91	35	6	3
Total ...		1,56,642 14 18	44,098 14 4	65,782 14 6	33,710 4 1	11,008 8 1	1,970 6 0	65 1 88	7 6 8	1,015	2,668	1,469	492	96	10	3
Rahimgunj ...	Mal	89,216 10 12	30,173 17 19	44,328 12 10	13,592 4 18	1,078 3 4	43 12 1	.....	.....	977	2,347	941	128	4	... ...	.....
Kotebhajni ...	„	21,809 7 9	5,965 8 14	10,355 16 5	4,012 14 0	833 7 7	39 19 4	2 1 19	.....	143	550	257	63	3	3	....
Teldhar ..	„	29,596 16 19	8,772 7 1	16,624 2 17	3,588 14 4	311 12 17	.....	.....	.....	186	726	232	9	.....	....	....
Total ...	.....	2,97,265 9 18	89,010 7 18	1,37,991 5 18	54,903 17 3	13,231 11 9	2,053 17 5	67 3 17	7 6 8	2,321	6,291	2,899	692	103	13	3

No. V.—*Number of jotedars and under-tenants, and the land held by them.*

MATHABHANGA.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			QUANTITY OF LAND DIRECTLY HELD BY								NUMBER OF THE UNDER-TENURES.					
Name of Pargana.	Name of mehal.	Total of assessed land.	Jotes.	Chukanis.	Dar-Chukanis.	Daradar Chukanis.	Tasya Chukanis.	Tali Chukanis.	Tasya-Tali-Chukanis.	Number of Jotes.	Chukanis.	Dar-chukanis.	Daradar chukanis.	Tasya-chukanis	Tali-chukanis.	Tasya-Tali chukanis.
		B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B.K.D							
Mathabhanga..	Mal	3,44,143 17 0	62,640 13 1	1,47,590 16 6	96,236 4 17	31,234 12 17	5,374 5 3	918 10 13	148 14 3	2,324	5,268	4,533	1,861	402	73	10
Ditto	Debotter	32,257 2 5	6,047 17 17	14,005 15 0	9,851 14 4	2,290 9 14	61 5 10	.....	.....	160	439	448	117	7	..	...
Total..		3,76,400 19 5	68,688 10 18	1,61,596 11 6	1,06,087 19 1	33,525 2 11	5,435 10 13	918 10 13	148 14 3	2,484	5,707	4,981	1,978	409	73	10
Baishkata Chhit	Mal	2,774 10 10	535 5 5	1,448 14 3	521 8 9	257 17 1	11 5 12	.....	.....	26	81	55	36	2	..	..
Maraghat Baish-Chaia.	Mal	2,996 7 5	782 13 1	1,348 12 16	716 6 0	118 15 9	29 19 16	.....	....	19	32	25	6	1	..	..
Total..		3,82,171 16 17	70,006 9 4	1,64,393 18 6	1,07,325 13 10	33,901 15 1	5,476 16 1	918 10 13	148 14 3	2,529	5,820	5,061	2,020	412	73	10

No. V.—*Number of jotedars and undertenants, and the land held by them.*

LALBAZAR AND DINHATA.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Name of Pargana.	Name of mehal.	Total of assessed land.	QUANTITY OF LAND DIRECTLY HELD BY							Number of Jotes.	NUMBER OF THE UNDER-TENURES.					
			Jotes.	Chukanis.	Dar-Chukanis.	Daradar Chukanis.	Tasya Chukanis.	Tali Chukanis.	Tasya-Tali Chukanis.		Chukanis.	Dar-chukanis.	Daradar chukanis.	Tasya-chukanis.	Tali-chukanis.	Tasya-Tali chukanis.
						LALBAZAR.										
		B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.							
Lalbazar ..	Mal	2,81,967 0 8	71,726 18 17	1,31,733 15 10	64,051 11 19	12,941 18 17	1,416 16 11	65 18 15	.....	2,517	4,945	3,068	707	71	8	..
Ditto ..	Debotter	5,834 17 18	1,932 3 14	2,615 5 1	1,164 19 19	122 9 4	.....	.....	....	87	161	78	17	..	..	..
Total ..		2,87,801 18 6	73,659 2 11	1,34,349 0 11	65,216 11 18	13,064 8 1	1,416 16 11	65 18 15	.....	2,601	5,106	3,146	724	71	8	..
						DINHATA.										
Dinhata ..	Mal	3,10,891 16 10	58,071 14 5	1,41,492 8 6	1,05,734 9 16	30,014 15 7	5,040 19 16	525 5 0	12 4 0	3,729	10,947	11,723	4,927	1,085	127	8
Ditto ..	Debotter	20,707 16 14	3,578 14 19	9,122 4 8	6,343 8 13	1,492 8 11	162 18 18	7 1 5	.....	260	770	696	233	36	1	..
Total ..		3,31,599 13 4	61,651 9 4	1,50,614 12 14	1,12,077 18 9	31,507 3 18	5,203 18 14	532 6 5	12 4 0	3,989	11,717	12,419	5,160	1,121	128	8

No. V.—*Number of jotedars and undertenants, and the land held by them.*

COOCH BEHAR AND TUFANGUNJ.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Name of Pargana.	Name of mehal.	Total of assessed land.	QUANTITY OF LAND DIRECTLY.							Number of Jotes.	NUMBER OF THE UNDER-TENURES.					
			Jotes.	Chukanis.	Dar-Chukanis.	Daradar Chukanis.	Tasya Chukanis.	Tali Chukanis.	Tasya-Tali Chukanis.		Chukanis.	Dar-chukanis.	Daradar-chukanis.	Tasya-chukanis	Tali-chukanis.	Tasya-Tali chukanis.
						COOCH BEHAR.										
		B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.							
Cooch Behar ..	Mal	4,36,455 18 16	1,36,362 11 1	1,93,399 12 9	84,693 2 6	19,832 6 5	2,139 9 2	28 17 14	.....	4,851	9,452	6,024	1,707	241	5	..
Ditto ..	Debotter	72,157 14 13	19,270 4 2	35,296 7 11	13,943 9 8	3,219 18 3	419 18 18	7 16 11	.....	486	1,216	882	274	56	1	..
Total ..		5,08,613 13 2	1,55,632 15 3	2,28,695 19 19	98,636 11 14	23,052 4 8	2,559 8 0	36 14 1	.....	5,337	10,668	6,906	1,981	297	6	...
						TUFANGUNJ.										
Tufangunj ..	Mal	2,42,874 13 9	1,04,126 18 0	97,972 4 8	33,127 8 6	6,612 18 18	1,035 3 17	.....	.....	1,818	3,387	1,900	447	76	.....	....
Ditto ..	Debotter	43,369 14 6	16,013 2 10	17,599 9 1	7,320 0 13	2,234 15 16	202 6 6	.....	.....	247	550	303	112	18	....	.....
Total ..		2,86,244 7 15	1,20,140 0 16	1,15,571 13 9	40,447 8 19	8,847 14 14	1,237 10 3	.....	.....	2,065	3,937	2,203	559	94	.....	....

SUPPLEMENT

I.

The last representatives of the Nazir Deo's family, and the escheating of the Balarampur estate.

It has already appeared how Tut (Tatwa) Narayan was the last Nazir Deo, and how on his death in 1824 the Nazirship came to be separated from the Balarampur family, and his representatives ceased to be Nazir Deo's by virtue of succession. The Government, however, induced Maharaja Harendra Narayan to leave to the heirs of Tatwa Narayan the enjoyment of the pension of Rs. 500 which had been adjudged to the Nazir Deo by the Commission of Messrs. Mercer and Chauvet, and the Jaigir of Balarampur. [1]

This Jaigir as previously noticed comprised a tract of country about sixteen square miles in area, extending as it did a mile each way from Balarampur, the family residence of the Nazir Deos, and was from this fact called "*Krosi* Balarampur", meaning "Balarampur which is one *Kros* or two miles either way". This estate now forms a Taluk by itself and is recorded under that name in the land records of the State. It brought in a revenue of about Rs. 7,000 a year at the end of the sixties of the last century. The heirs of the last Nazir Deo enjoyed certain privileges within the limits of this Jaigir, and were always treated with a degree of consideration by the government of the country, not unmerited by the scions of an old and influential branch of the ruling family. As representatives of the personage who had been the most important factor in the conclusion of the treaty with the British Government, they always received from the Paramount Power patient hearing and support in all their just demands against the Maharaja.

Tatwa Narayan was succeeded by his son Hemendra Narayan. Hemendro Narayan had four sons of whom Tarak Narayan the eldest inherited the Balarampur estate after his father's death.

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[1] *Vide* The Nazir Deo *ante* pages 258-61.

Pratap Narayan died childless in 1865 and was succeeded by his youngest and last surviving brother Ram Narayan, then a lad of 15 years of age. During Ram Narayan's minority the Commissioner took charge of his estate which was directly managed by a Dewan under the general superintendence of the Deputy Commissioner.

Ever since the time of Nazir Deo Khagendra Narayan there had been a fued between his family and that of the Maharaja and an absence of all intercourse between them. Colonel Haughton, however, in the hope of effecting a reconciliation, induced Pratap Narayan to pay a visit to Cooch Behar where he was received by the Maharanis. When Ram Narayan came to inherit the estate he was placed in the Jenkins School where he made fair progress in his studies.

Ram Narayan attained his mojority in 1870, when his estate was made over to him by the Commissioner. He, however, died shortly after, in July 1870, without leaving a legitimate heir. Immediately on his death some of his officers headed by his Dewan forged a will appointing his illegitimate son Karindra Narayan as his successor. The forgery was, however, detected and the persons implicated in it, including the Dewan of Balarampur, were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment. All the moveable property of Ram Narayan was seized and sold by public auction, and the sale proceeds were credited to the State. Under orders of the Government of Bengal [2] the Balarampur estate was taken possession of by the State.

The allowance hitherto enjoyed by different members of the family was not, however, stopped. In 1871, Colonel Haughton sanctioned a revised scale including Rs. 100 to Harasundari Israni widow of Tarak Narayan. This lady is still living and enjoys the aforesaid pension.

[2] *Vide* Bengal Government's letter No. 3010, dated the 30th September 1870, to the Commissioner of the Cooch Behar Division.

II.

Correspondence regarding Debutter administration.

No. 4328, dated, Cooch Behar, the 28th March 1902.

From—RAI CALICA DOSS DUTT, Bahadur, C.I.E., Dewan of the Cooch Behar State.

To—His Highness the Maharaja Bhup Bahadur of Cooch Behar, G.C.I.E., C.B.

With reference to the Personal Assistant's letter No. 340 of the 4th July last, on the subject of the Debutter administration, I have the honour to report as follows.

2. Madan Mohan and some other Thakurs were established by your Highness' predecessors soon after the coming to power of the present dynasty, and, as is the custom amongst all Chiefs and Zemindars, lands were granted for their support. The exact dates when these Debutters were created cannot be ascertained ; but from ancient times they were shown as such in all collection papers. When soon after the conclusion of the treaty in 1772 the British Government ascertained the *Hastabood* or collection of revenue in the State for the purpose of fixing the tribute, the collections from the Debutter mehals were not included in the papers as a reference to the old records will show. As is the case with Debutter property in general in India, the mehals here were looked upon as trust property both by the State and the British Government. In British India Debutter property cannot be sold for the debts of the persons in whose charge the Thakur may happen to be.

3. Besides the Debutter mehals originally shown in the collection papers of the State, there were Debutter lands granted to many persons for the support of many Thakurs in their charge. Some of these Thakurs belonged to the State. The large property belonging to the Kamateswari Thakurani of Gosanimari is an example of this. It sometimes happened that for the sake of convenience some of these Thakurs were taken charge of by the State ; when this was done the lands were resumed and shown as *mal* (not Debutter) in the collection papers, and a scale of *poojas* was sanctioned. Some such scales were sanctioned by the Commissioner during your Highness' minority. The expenditure for the *poojas* of the Thakurs thus taken charge of, was shown under Debutter. I beg to enclose herewith a full report submitted by the Duar Mukhtear in connection with the subject. It contains all necessary details.

4. The collections for Debutter lands were, like those for *mal* lands, small before the first settlement of the State. The amount collected in 1864 was Rs. 28,840; while that now shown in the Malcutchery Towji is Rs. 1,10,000. The collections exceed

the expenditure on *poojas*, inclusive of charge on account of periodical *poojas* and money grants made to other religious institutions, by Rs. 69,297. The cost of maintaining the Dharmasala is not included in the expenditure.

5. A list of Thakurs maintained by the State was prepared by Mr. H. Beveridge, the first Deputy Commissioner of Cooch Behar. A copy of this list is appended to the Duar Mukhtear's report. Other Thakurs, named in the enclosed report, were afterwards taken charge of under the Commissioner's orders for reasons already stated above ; it may be presumed that most of these Thakurs had lands which were also resumed by the State. It is certain that the Commissioner never sanctioned the establishment of a new Thakur.

6. Some more Thakurs were added in the list in your Highness' time and the names of these are given in para 6 of the Duar Mukhtear's report. The principal amongst these were the Thakurs which were in the charge of the late Maharani Kameswari Dangar Aye Devati. They originally belonged to Durgeswari Doyali Aye, wife of Maharaja Harendra Narayan. This lady got grant of lands from the Maharaja and the *poojas* were performed with the collections from these lands. Maharani Kameswari held possession of these lands. They were afterwards shown in the State Towji along with other lands belonging to the ladies of the palace under the Commissioner's orders; amounts representing the collections from the lands were granted as allowances to the ladies. It was thus that there was a money grant for Thakurs in the Maharani's charge ; originally, however, there were Debutter lands. The above remarks apply to a great extent to other Thakurs of the Ayes. Shitalkhuchi Aye and Lankeswari Aye left properties in Benares for the support of Thakurs; we took possession of these properties and fixed scale for the *poojas*. The grant to Gopal Brahmachari's Dayamayi Kali was an entirely new one; the Thakurani had had no property. As regards Kamateswari Thakurani of Gosanimari I beg to state that the income from her Debutter mehals is much larger than the amount of expenditure paid by the State.

7. The Duar Mukhtear has given also a list of Thakurs which are in the charge of other persons and which are supported with the collections from Debutter lands. These persons are the Shebaits, and the validity of their claims was fully enquired into by the Settlement Department, as a reference to the settlement records will show.

8. With respect to the Thakurs which were in the charge of Maharani Kameswari I beg also to state that the lady made

personal representation to your Highness about their maintenance. I beg to give below an extract from your Highness' office letter No. 670 of the 26th January 1887 in connection with the maintenance of the Thakurs:—

"Arrangement is to be made, as recommended, for drawing separately the monthly allowance of Rs 277-0-0 on account of profits of Debutter mehals and for the performance of the *pooja* of the Thakurs. As the Debutter mehals were granted by former Maharajas for the express purpose of maintaining the Thakurs, the money realisable on this head will continue to be spent as now, and the Thakurs will be in charge of Rajmata if she likes, otherwise of the Duar Mukhtear as proposed."

9. The matter is a delicate one and my prayer is that due weight may be given to acts done by Your Highness' predecessors and by your Highness in considering it.

(Enclosure to Dewan's letter No. 4328, dated 29th March 1902.)

No. 168, dated, Cooch Behar, the 19th March 1900.

From—BABU CHANDRA KAMAL LAHIRI, Duar Mookhtear,
To—The Dewan of the Cooch Behar State.

With reference to your Memo. No. 1534, dated the 20th July 1899, forwarding for report a copy of the Personal Assistant's letter No. 340, dated July 4th, 1899, on the subject of the Debutter administration in Cooch Behar, I have the honor to state as follows.

2. The subject of the maintenance of the Thakurbaries and the administration of the Debutter lands in the State first attracted the attention of Maharaja Narendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur in 1862. Different Thakurs and Thakuranies had been established at different times by the Maharajas and lands were specially assigned for their maintenance. These lands used to be leased out, like other lands in the State, to Ijardars and the *poojas* performed under the supervision of a department, called the Dharmadhakhya Department, with money specially allotted for the purpose. Maharaja Narendra Narayan found that the rents were collected from different offices, and that as there were no fixed scales of expenditure it could not be correctly ascertained what amount was really spent for the maintenance of each Thakur or Thakurani. He therefore established a separate office, called the Debutter Sherista, for the management of the Debutter lands. A copy of the Rubacari recorded by him on the subject on the 27th Baisak 1269 B.S., corresponding with the 13th April 1862, is herewith

submitted. No scale of expenditure was laid down in this Rubacari, but from a statement prepared in 1865 by Deputy Commissioner Mr. H. Beveridge, to which reference will be made later on, I am led to believe that a scale was fixed and that it amounted to Rs. 24,612-6-3¾ gandas. It cannot, however, be made out what the income from the Debutter lands amounted to at this time. The policy laid down by the Maharaja as regards the application of the income of the Debutter mehals is thus stated by Mr. Beveridge in his letter No. 776, dated November 4th, 1865:—

"The surplus of the Debutter collections, after defraying the expenses of *poojas*, was intended by the late Rajah to be kept apart and employed in works of charity and mercy. It should therefore not be reckoned among the general income of the State, though no doubt if any considerable balance existed it might be applied to the digging of a tank or the making of a road".

3. The British Government assumed the management of the State in 1864 and the expenses incurred in the Debutter Department, as in the others, attracted their attention in the following year. Mr. Beveridge wrote as follows in his letter No. 777, dated November 7th, 1865:—

"Something may be done towards curtailing religious expenses (though, as stated before, Col. Haughton has already effected reductions under this head) and this will be one of the first subjects brought before the committee, which I am going to appoint in accordance with para 9 of the Secretary to the Government of Bengal's letter".

The committee referred to is the Finance Commitee, which consisted of Deputy Commissioner Mr. Beveridge, Dewan Babu Nil Kamal Sanyal and the late Babu Kali Kamal Lahiri. It considered what reductions were possible in the different branches of the administration and submitted proposals to the Commissioner. What those proposals were cannot, however, be made out, as there are no papers connected with them either in the Council Record Rooms or in those of yours. This much however is clear that on the recommendation of the Committee the separate Debutter Sherista established by Maharaja Narendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur was abolished and amalgamated with the Malcutchery. They also recommended the grant of Rs. 23,379-14-15½ gandas for the maintenance of the different Thakurs and Thakuranies. The Dharmadhakhya Department, however, continued to supervise the *poojas* of the Thakur and Thakuranies, but it was subsequently abolished in

1871, and the work made over to the Duar Mukhtear, to be performed under the general control of the Dewan.

4. I beg to snbmit herewith copy of a statement, as prepared by Deputy Commissioner Mr. Beveridge in 1865, which gives the names of the different Thakurs and Thakuranies then maintained by the State, the authorities by whom they were established, the amount sanctioned for the maintenance of each and all other necessary particulars. It will be seen that the amount originally sanctioned for the maintenance of the Thakurs and Thakuranies, as stated in para 2, was Rs 24,682-6-3¾ gandas. The Finance Committee proposed a reduction at Rs 1312-7-8¼ gandas and the balance viz. Rs 23,379-14-15½ gandas, seems to be the amount of grant recommended by them. The statement does not, however, shew the grants for periodical *poojas* and for religious performances for the benefit of His Highness' health. The charges on these account were probably paid separately and there were no fixed allotments for them, such amounts being sanctioned as appeared to be necessary. There is another circumstance which should be noted in this connection. Excepting those for the Thakurs and Thakuranies in British India, that is, the Thakurs and Thakuranies in Benares, Brindaban and Kamakhya, the grants for the others were shewn in Narayaini coins, which were abolished in April 1866 and Government Rupees introduced instead.

5. The system of estimating for all receipts and expenditure in accordance with the Indian Budget Rules was for the first time introduced in the State from the beginning of 1866-67. I have not been able to find out the sanctioned Budget for that year, but I have got a paper which is probably the office copy of the Budget and is in Mr. Beveridge's own hand. It shows the estimated expenditure for 1866-67 under each major head. In this paper there is a provision of Rs. 23,889 for "Religious charges including annual *poojas* and allowance for *poojas* &c. for Rajah's health and prosperity." The details for the above amount of Rs 23,889 can not be traced now but it appears to include charges both for the ordinary and the Periodical *poojas* as also the expenditure for *poojas* &c. for the benefit of His Highness' health. If this estimate was sanctioned by the Government, and I have every reason to believe that it was sanctioned, a large reduction must have been made in the scale of ordinary *poojas* laid down by Maharaja Narendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur.

6. The following table compares the expenditure as sanctioned in 1866-1867 with that for 1899-00.

Particulars of expenditure.	Sanctioned grant for 1866-67.	Sanctioned grant for 1899-1900.
Ordinary Poojas	23,889	28,301
Periodical Poojas		5,117
Religious ceremonies for the benefit of His Highness' health.		2,637
Establishment charges		2,452
Miscellaneous charges		2,196
Total ...	23,889	40,703

Increase Rs. 16,814

Of the above increase of Rs. 16,814, Rs. 11,563 appears to be under ordinary *poojas* and the balance is made up of increases under the other heads. The principal item of increase under periodical *poojas* is the amount of Rs. 1,000 sanctioned for the Rash Mela. (Vide Personal Assistant's No. 999, dated the 22nd September 1893.) The administration of the State has materially progressed during the last 35 years and establishment and miscellaneous charges have increased in the Debutter as in the other departments. Details regarding the increase of Rs. 11,563 under ordinary *poojas* are given below :—

Maintenance of Thakurs and Thakuranies not shown in the Deputy Commissioner's statement of 1865.

Grants sanctioned by the British Government.

Giridhari Lal Thakur belonging to Maharani Nistarini Aye Debati	350	0	0
Symasundar Thakur belonging to a lady of the Andar of Maharaja Harendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur, ordinarily known as Dewrir Beti Aye ...	134	0	0
Jagabandhu Thakur belonging to the late Nakeswari Aye of the Andar of Maharaja Harendra Narayan	231	0	0

Madan Mohan and Satyanarain Thakurs. These two Thakurs were at Kheti, but when a sub-divisional station was established at Mathabhanga they were removed to that place. It cannot be ascertained to whom the Thakurs belonged. The probability is they were State Thakurs and were maintained by a Sebait with the income of the Debutter lands sanctioned for the purpose. These lands may have been resumed and the Thakurs placed in charge of the Dharmadhakhya Department	173	0	0
Chaturbhuj Thakur.—This also is probably a State Thakur and was maintained by a Sebait with the income of the Debutter lands. The lands were resumed and special grant sanctioned for the maintenance of the Thakur	120	0	0
Gopinath Thakur.—This is a State Thakur. The remarks relating to Chaturbhuj Thakur apply ...	22	0	0
Balaram and Dashabhuja of Balarampur. These two belonged to the late Nazir Deo. The Nazir Deo died heirless and the properties were resumed by the State in 1870. The Thakurs are therefore maintained by the State	337	0	0

Grants sanctioned by H. H. the Maharaja Bhup Bahadur.

Thakurs in charge of the late Maharani Kameswari Dangar Aye Debati	...3,332(*a*)	(*a.*) Vide Personal Assistant's Memo. No 22, dated the 29th April 1887.
Sitalkhuchi Aye's Thakurs in Benares...	48(*b*)	(*b.*) Do. No. 1651, dated the 22nd February 1894.
Lankeswari Aye's Thakurs in Benares...	70(*c*)	(*c.*) Do. No. 1447, dated the 30th March 1893.
Dayamayi Kali of Gopal Chandra Brahmachari	...600(*d*)	(*d.*) Do. No. 850, dated the 14th July 1889.
New Dispensation Church ...	...2,000(*e*)	(*e.*) Do. No. 37, dated the 28th April 1888.
Grant for Batash Sardar's Musjid	...240(*f*)	(*f.*) Do. No. A, dated the 16th June 1884.
Additional grant for goats and buffaloes for sacrificial purposes ...	...462(*g*)	(*g.*) Do. No. 1508, dated the 18th February 1893.
Additional grant for Benares Chhatra ...	60(*h*)	(*h.*) Do. No. 287, dated the 8th July 1889.
Amount for maintenance of Kamateswari Thakurani at Gosanimari [3] ...	3,384	
Total	... 11,563	

[3] There were extensive Debutter lands for the maintenance of Thakurani and the Bara Deori there used to perform *poojas* and hold the lands. They were, however, included in the Malcutchery revenue-rolls and money-grants made instead for the *poojas*.

If the above increase of Rs 11,563 be deducted from the allotment of 28,301 now sanctioned for ordinary *poojas* the balance amounts to Rs. 16,738 only; the grant for this purpose in the time of Maharaja Narendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur, however, amounted to Rs 19,274, exclusive of establishment and miscellaneous charges. A reduction of Rs 2,536 was thus effected.

7. The Thakurs and Thakuranies named in our present Budget or in Mr. Beveridge's statement of 1865 are not all that are maintained by the State. There are Thakurs and Thakuranies in charge of private individuals, the *poojas* of which are performed with the income of the Debutter lands granted to them for the purpose. I beg to append hereto a statement showing the particulars of these lands and the names of the Thakurs and Thakuranies for the maintenance of which they were granted. In the present reign money grants were sanctioned for the maintenance of two private institutions, viz, Gopal Brahmachari's Kalibari and Batash Sirdar's Masjid referred to above.

8. In para 5 of this report reference has been made to the follwing Thakurs which were maintained by the ladies of the Palace:—

(1) Giridhari Lal Thakur belonging to the late Maharani Nistarini Aye Debati.

(2) Syamsundar Thakur belonging to the Dewrir Beti Aye of the Andar of Maharaja Harendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur.

(3) Jagabandhu Thakur belonging to the late Nakeswari Aye of the Andar of Maharaja Harendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur.

(4) Thakurs in charge of the late Maharani Kameswari Dangar Aye Debati.

5. Sitalkhuchi Aye's Thakurs in Benares.

6. Lankeswari Aye's Thakurs in Benares.

The total grant for the maintenance of these Thakurs amounts to Rs. 4,165. Most of the ladies of the Palace used to maintain Thakurs and Thakuranies and there were lands assigned for the purpose. In the course of the first settlement of the State these lands were resumed and settled as ordinary *mal* jotes and the profits, hitherto pent on the maintenance of the Thakurs, were included in the allowances granted to them. Some of these lands were given by the Maharajas themselves and the grants were, as in the case of the lands held by Maharani Nistarini Aye Debati, Nakeswari Aye and Maharani Kameswari Dangar Aye Debati, upheld in the course of the resumption proceedings instituted on the occasion of the first settlement of the State. The Thakurs in charge of Maha-

rani Kameswari Dangar Aye Debati were before maintained by Durgeswari Aye (commonly called the Dayali Aye) with the income of the lands specially granted for the purpose by Maharaja Harendra Narayan. The original *Sunnad* for the grant was filed in the Settlement Case No. 220 of 1870 and can be still seen with the records. A short time before her death Durgeswari Aye by a letter dated the 10th Baisakh 1273 B.S. (corresponding with the 22nd April 1866) made over the Thakurs and with them all the properties belonging to them to Maharani Kameswari Dangar Aye Debati. Subsequently money grant was made to her for the maintenance of the Thakurs and the lands were brought on the general revenue-roll of the State. When Maharani Kameswari retired to Benares in October 1887 His Highness was pleased to order that the grant would be continued, as "the Debutter mehals were granted by former Maharajas for the express purpose of maintaining the Thakurs," *vide* Personal Assistant's No. 670, dated the 26th January 1887. Sitalkhuchi Aye and Lankeswari Madhyam Aye owned houses in Benares, the rents of which were, during their life time, utilised in maintaining their Thakurs. On their death the houses were either sold and the sale-proceeds utilised in repairing the other State houses in Benares, or reserved for State purposes. His Highness was therefore pleased to order the grant of Rs. 48 for the maintenance for Sitalkhuchi Aye's Thakurs, and Rs. 70 for those of Lankeswari Aye.

9. The demand of Debutter Revenue amounted to Rs. 28,840 only in 1864, when the British Government took charge of the State. It rose up to Rs 79,202 during the first settlement of the State and now amounts to about Rs 1,10,000. It will thus be seen how very largely it has increased. The expenditure for the maintenance of religious institutions, however, amounts to Rs 40,703 only. There is thus a surplus of so large a sum as Rs 69,296, which after paying the cost for the maintenance of the *Atitkhana*, amounting to Rs. 3,131, is fully used for other administrative purposes.

(*Enclosures to the Duar Mukhtear's letter No.* 168 *of the 19th March 1900, to the Dewan.*)

1.

No. 116S, dated Jalpaiguri, 15th May 1872.

From—COL. J. C. HAUGHTON, Commissioner, Cooch Behar Division.
To—The Deputy Commissioner, Cooch Behar.

In reply to your endorsement No. 232 of 3rd instant, I have the honor to observe that I presume Debutter mehals therein referred to were created by the Ranis and others out of land assigned to them as Petbhata, and do not form a part of any jotes or Ijaras acquired by them either in their own names or names of any other persons without a formal grant from some Rajas. If this is the fact, I direct that the lands in question be resumed with the Petbhata lands with which they were included and brought on the Mal Towjee. I will in such case make a fixed allowance to the lady whose land is resumed after a deduction on account of collection charges.

2. If the lands alienated, however, belong to jotes or Ijaras acquired by means of Ijara and are not held under grant from any Raja, they must be absolutely resumed without compensation. You will remember that even in the case of the grants made by the Rajas themselves, the ladies have only a life interest in them.

No. 346, the 8th May 1872.

Memo. by—W. O. A. BECKETT, ESQ., Deputy Commissioner.

Copy forwarded to the Dewan for information and guidance with reference to his letter No. 48, dated 1st instant.

No. 317, the 18th May 1872.

Memo. by—The Deputy Commissioner.

Copy forwarded to the Settlement Deputy Commissioner for information.

2.

NARENDRA NARAYAN BHUP,
Maharajah.

রোবকারী হাইকোর্ট, হুজুর এজলাস মহাবিচারালয়, মোতালকে নিজ বেহার

সন ৩৫৩ শকা মোতাবেক সন ১২৬৯ তাং ২৭এ বৈশাখ।

যেহেতু সরকারের স্থাপিত শ্রীশ্রী৺ ঠাকুর ও ৺রী ঠাকুরাণী প্রভৃতির দেবোত্তর মহালাত কাছারি হইতে তহশীলের নিয়ম থাকাতে নানা গোল ও বিশৃঙ্খলা দৃষ্ট হইতেছে, বিশেষতঃ সমুদয় রাজগীরে কত ভূমি দেবোত্তর ও তাহার কত উৎপন্ন ও কোন দেবতার সেবা পূজায় কত ব্যয় তাহা আস্কারা জানা যায় না, অতএব সমুদয় দেবোত্তরের তহশীল ও তাবত বিগ্রহ দেবতার সেবা পূজায় ব্যয় এক সেরেস্তা হইতে হওয়া ও দেওয়ান উচিত বিধানে—

হুকুম হইল যে

যে সকল দেবোত্তর মহাল মাল ও খানগীর কাছারি ও ধর্ম্মাধ্যক্ষের সেরেস্তার তহশীলভুক্ত আছে তাহা একত্রিত হইয়া দেবোত্তরের সেরেস্তা নামে এক সেরেস্তা সংস্থাপিত হয়, এবং তৎসম্বন্ধীয় বন্দোবস্ত ও রায়তান কমিকমা দেওয়া ও আমলাগণের খারিজ বহাল ইত্যাদি অন্যান্য গুরুতর কর্ম্ম হুজুরে এত্তালা ও এজাজতের সহিত সম্পাদন হয় ইতি।

সেরেস্তাদারের পার্শিনিসানি

দেওয়ানের পার্শিনিসানি

No. 3.

Statement shewing lands granted as Debutter to private individuals for maintenance of Thakurs and Thakuranies.

Serial No.	No. of Settlement case in which the grant was upheld.	Name of grantor.	Name of original grantee.	Name of present holder.	Date of original grant.	Name of Thakurs or Thakuranies for whose maintenance the grant was made.	Thak No. and name of Taluk where land is situated.	Quantity of land confirmed as Debutter.	REMARKS.
1	12 of 1867	Maharaja Shivendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur.	Bala Deori...	Hari Prosad, Guru Prosad & Dondara Deoris	1231 B.S. ...	Debatra of Bhandarnee Thakurani.	75 Nij Taraf Mekhligunj.	64 18 5	* For as long as the *pujas* are performed.
2	5 of 1865	Unknown	Unknown ...	Mohendra Narayan Chakravorty.	Unknown ...	Debatra of Nara Singha Thakur.	54 Shahebgunja Rohimgunja.	89 7 9*	
3	876	Maharaja Dhairjendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur.	Chura Karji	Shib Prosad Karji, Kishori, Gonkishore Bhola Nath, Monohor, Durga Prosad.	27th Magh 263 Shoka	Debatra of Kanai Lal Thakur.	231 Gopalpore, Mathabhanga.	183 12 0	
4	131	Maharaja Dhairjendra Narayan & Rajendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur.	Ram Deb Medi.	Jago Bandhu Medi ...	Original sunud lost, sunud granted by Maharaja Dhairjendra Narayan on the 27th Magh, 1181 B.S.	Debatra of Choturbhuj Thakur.	261 Bhorkul Danga Mathabhaga.	1,114 15 0	

5	741	Maharaja Harendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur.	Madhab Ram Karji.	Taktiram Karji ...	7th Asvin 293 Shoka.	Debatra of Syam Rai Bigraha Thakur.	336 Nalangibari, Mathabhanga.	40	15	2
6	834	Unknown	Unknown ...	Ram Nath Bairagi ...	Unknown ...	Debatra of Mahaprobhu Thakur	369 Akrar Hat, Khorkiabari.	32	8	0
7	2245	Unknown	Mogal Bairagi.	Baula Das Bairagi ...	Unknown ...	Debatra of Gopi Nath Bigraha Thakur.	521 Jatia Gara Lal Bazar.	29	18	3
8	1509	Maharaja Dhurjendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur.	Radha Raman Goswami.	Lalit Mohan and Hari Mohan Goswami.	5th Magh 271 Shoka.	Debatra of Syam Sundar Thakur.	574 Chokusal, Dinhata.	37	16	0
	1508	Maharaja Dhairjendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur.	Radha Raman Goswami.	Lalit Mohan and Hari Mohan Goswami.	5th Magh 271 Shoka.	.....	584 Borobhita, Dinhata.	64	16	0
10	1046	Ditto ...	Ridoy Ram Das.	Birnath Barakait ...	15th Bhadra 270 Shoka.	.....	589 Brahamanir Choki, Dinhata.	46	16	16
11	1677	Maharaja Harendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur.	Govindapria Baistobi and Akinchan Das. Bairagi	Suk Deb Das Bairagi.	9th Magh 305 Shoka.	.....	670 Tharaikhana, Dinhata.	21	12	0
2	1302 1181	Ditto ...	Balak Das Shebaith.	Raghubir Bairagi Shebaith.	Unknown ...	.....	710 Baladanga, Dinhata.	2	9	10
13	1788	Unknown	Madhuram-Hishabia.	Bhubonananda, Shibananda and Hemananda Hishabia.	Unknown ...	Debatra of Radha nath Bigraha and other Thakurs-	714 Dinhata ...	86	8	0

Serial No.	No. of Settlement case in which the grant was upheld.	Name of grantor.	Name of original grantee.	Name of present holder.	Date of original grant.	Name of Thakurs and Thakuranies for Whose maintenance the grant was made.	Thak No. and name of Taluk where land is situated.	Quantity of land confirmed as Debutter.	REMARKS.
14	2137	Not known ...	Not known.	Baidya Nath Das ...	Not known.	.....	723 Koalidaha, Dinhata.	140 15 6	
15	1678	Some Maharaja ...	Dukhiram Adhikari.	Doliram Adhikari ...	2th Kartic 225 Shoka.	.....	724 Kharkharia, Dinhata.	14 5 6	
16	2041	Maharaja Harendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur.	Raghu Narayan Kumar.	Dhullab Narayan Kumar.	Unknown ...	Braja Mohan Bigraha Thakur.	740 Haribhanga Khattimari, Dinhata.	127 19 12	
17	1334	Khagendra Narayan Nazir Deo.	Rati Hishabia.	Rash Behari Rudra ...	12th Agrahayan 1175 B. S.	Lskshmi Narayan Gopal Bigraha, Radhika Thakurani.	753 Lotafela Chhat, Dinhata.	78 0 0	
18	1683	Maharaja Harendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur.	Kanta Narayan Kumar.	Dhairja Narayan Kumar and Anandomoi Ishorani, widow of Bhairab Narayan Kumar.	Not known.	.....	759 Mornia 2nd, Dinhata.	140 10 18	
19	2030	Ditto ...	Hari Deb Sharma.	Dharma Narayan Sharma.	22nd Joista 317 Shoka.	.....	777 Gopalgunj, Dinhata.	54 0 0	
20	2287	Unknown	Unknown ...	Rash Behari Rudra ...	Unknown ...	.....	788 Kalaighati beel, Dinhata.	27 0 0	

21	502	Maharaja Dhairjendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur.	Shanta Deb Kumar.	Lhakshmi moi Ishrani and Srimati Isharani widow of Shankar Deb Kumar.	12th Falgun 226 Shaka.	Debotter of Madan Mohan Thakur.	838 Fuleshwari Kharija Cooch Behar.	192	6	8
22	621	Maharaja Harendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur.	Janak Ram Bhattacharji	Bhabani Ram Bhattacharji and Upendra Ram Bhattacharji and Nitya moi Debya.	11th Magh. 313 Shaka.	.....	849 Haldimohan, Cooch Behar.	12	13	9
23	84	Khagendra Narayan Nazir Deo.	Ram Deb Sarma Medi.	Jaga Bandhu Medi.	7th Chaitra 263 Shaka.	Debotter of Chaturbhuj Thakur.	855 Patchara, Cooch Behar.	46	16	16
24	786	Unknown.	Unknown.	Jiban and Ram Mohan Adhikari.	Unkown.	Debotter of Gopal Bigraha Thakur.	Do.	47	19	10
25	840	Khagendra Narayan Nazir Deo.	Ram Deb Medi.	Jaga Bandhu Medi.	7th Chaitra 263 Shaka.	Debotter of Chaturbhuj Thakur.	859 Nalingibari Baro, Cooch Behar.	93	13	12
26	409	Unknown.	Unknown.	Guru Prosad Medi.	13th Pous.	Debotter of Jugannath Thakur.	883 Atharokota Baro, Cooch Behar.	35	2	12
27	385	Maharaja Dhairjendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur.	Radha Raman Goswami.	Lalit Mohan Goswami.	5th Magh 271 Shaka.	Debotter of Syam Sundar Thakur.	904 Mowamari, Cooch Behar.	64	8	2
28	1483	Rani Shatyabhama...	Ram Deb Medi.	Jaga Bandhu Medi.	Original Sanad lost. Sanad given by Maharaja Dhairjendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur, 24th Sraban 1193 B.S.	Debotter of Chaturbhuj Thakur.	910 Ghugumari Cooch Behar.	25	12	0

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29	236	Khagendra Narayan Nazir Deo.	Ramdeb Medi	Jagabandhu Medi ...	7th Chaitra 263 Shaka.	Debotter of Chaturbhuj Thakur.	917 Bheladanga, Cooch Behar.	366 13 7	
30	652	Maharaja Upendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur	Unknown.	Ramya Deb and Chandra Deb Goswami.	19th Asvin 211 Shaka.	Debotter of Madan Gopal Thakur.	918 Damodarpur, Cooch Behar.	247 [illegible] 2	
31	1578	Maharaja Harendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur.	Mahendra Narayan Kumar.	Bhubanendra Narayan Kumar.	Unknown.	Debotter of Krishna Balaram-Thakurs.	922 Natkerpar, Cooch Behar.	24 0 12	
32	2058	Do.	Gobra Karji.	Nila Sankar.	Ditto.	Debotter of Balaram Thakur.	925 Gosaingunj, Cooch Behar.	2 4 15	
33	1096	Maharaja Dhairjendra Naryan Bhup Bahadur.	Khelaram Jamdaria.	Krishna Chandra Jamdaria.	4th Asvin 269 Shaka.	Ditto.	932 Jhinaidanga, Cooch Behar.	21 12 0	
34	1101	Maharaja Harendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur.	Sister of Asharu Das.	Shidhya Nath Bhattacharjya.	18th Pous 325 Shaka.	Debotter of Brajakishore Bigraha.	933 Dawaguri, Cooch Behar.	44 5 12	
35	1092	Unknown.	Unknown.	Mahendra Sing Kumar, Padya Sing Kumar.	Unknown.	Debotter of Kanai Thakur.	935 Kunidanga, Cooch Behar.	5 2 9	
36	1 97	Maharaja Upendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur.	Kanta Narayan Kumar.	Shambhu Narayan Kumar and Dhairja Narayan Kumar.	11th Magh 246 Shaka.	Debotter of Madan Mohan Thakur.	Ditto.	75 12 0	

37	1089	Maharaja Harendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur.	Asharu Das.	Shidhya Nath Bhattacharjya.	15th Falgun 312 Shaka.	Debotter of Braja Kishore Bigraha Thakur.	936 Ghorghoria, Cooch Behar.	40	14	14
38	1098	Do.	Padya Duaria.	Kali Prasad Das.	19th Falgun 324 Shaka.	Debotter of Madan Mohon Thakur.	Ditto.	86	8	0
39	1413	Do.	Rasik Sing Kumar.	Kabir Sing and Sharup Sing Kumar.	5th Sraban 279 Shaka.	Debotter of Salgram Thakur.	964 Dodearpar, Cooch Behar.	55	0	0
40	1095	Maharaja Dhairjendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur.	Gavinda Ram Jamdaria.	Krishna Chandra Jamdaria.	23rd Kartic 268 Shaka.	Debotter of Balaram Thakur.	997 Chokchoka, Cooch Behar.	39	5	11
41	1094	Maharaja Harendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur.	Gopal Adhikari.	Bholka Adhikari.	Unknown.	Debotter of Bansi Badan Thakur.	Ditto.	4	10	18
42	1100	Maharaja Dhairjendradra Narayan Bhup Bahadur.	Gavinda deb Medhi.	Ramyadeb and Chandra Deb Medhi.	12th Asar 263 Shaka.	Debotter of Baikuntha Nath Thakur.	1008 Baikuntapur, Cooch Behar.	172	16	0
43	157	Marich Mati Aye ...	Gayan Das Adhikari.	Bhuban Mohan Buxi..	17th Sraban 1186 B. S.	.....	1023 Ambari, Cooch Behar.	26	0	0
44	1924	Maharaja Rajendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur.	Ragghunath Das.	Rati Deb Buxi ...	23rd Asvin 261 Shaka.	Debotter of Madan Mohan Thakur.	1078 Putimari Buxi bosh, Cooch Behar	516	0	0
45	825	Maharaja Rup Narayan and Harendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur.	Parus Ram Medhi and Hariprosad Medhi.	Gunga Prosad, Guru Prosad and Gobinda Prosad Medhi	10th Asar 185 Shaka. 8th Paush 294 Shaka.	Debotter of Gopi Nath Thakur.	914 town of Cooch Behar.	16	4	0

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46	699	Maharaja Dhairjendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur.	Khela Ram Jamdaria.	Krishna Jamdaria ...	22nd Bhadra 260 Shaka.	Debotter of Balaram Bigraha Thakur.	914 Town of Cooch Behar.	7 18 10	
47	839	Maharaja Rajendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur.	Ragghunath Das.	Rati Deb Buxi ...	23rd Asar 261 Shaka.	Deboter of Madan Gopal Thakur.	Ditto ...	169 15 13	
48	526	Maharaja Upendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur.	Arjun Sarma Bairagi.	Nil Mani Sarma ...	26th Paush 206 Shaka. 212.	Debotter of Syam Ray Bigraha and Balaram Bigraha.	1088 Nakkatigach, Tufangunj.	32 3 6	

COOCH BEHAR :

The 19th March 1900.

CHANDRA KAMAL LAHIRI,

Duar Mukhtear.

A

Statement showing the details of Debutter grants, prepared by Mr. Beveridge, Deputy Commissioner, in 1865.

গোসয়ারা খরচের বরাওর্দ্দ স্থাপিত দেবালয় সমূহ সরকার কোচবিহার এলাকে আফিস কমিসনরী সন ১৮৬৫ ইংরেজী তারিখ ২৪এ নবেম্বর মোতাবেক ১২৭২ সন বাঙ্গালা তারিখ ১০ই অগ্রহায়ণ।

দেবতার নাম।	নিত্য পূজা।	পূর্ব্ব পূজা।	বাজে তিথি যাত্রা পূজা।	সেহাবন্দি খরচ।	বাজে খরচ।	একুন।	যাহা বাজে অগুের অভিপ্রায় হইয়াছে।	বাকি মোট।
৺ মদনমোহন ঠাকুর	১০২৬৲	......	১৩৫,	১৫৩,	.....	১৩৮৬	২৯।০	১৩৫৬।০
৺ রাধারমণ ঠাকুর	৪৭৯/০	.....	৭৭,	১২৬,	.....	৬৮২/০	৭	৬৭৫/০
৺রাধাবিনোদ ঠাকুর	১৮২।০	.....	৪২।৶০	৮৪,	.....	৩০৯৶০	৪৫২	৩০৫/১০
৺মদনগোপাল ঠাকুর	১৮২।০	.....	৫৫।০	১৬২,	.....	৪০০	৯৭	৩০৩
৺দীনদয়াল ঠাকুর	৯১।০	.....	৪০।০	৯০,	.....	২২১৸০	৮	২১৩৸০
৺ঈশ্বর নৃসংহ ঠাকুর। শ্রীরামপুর টাকাগাছ...	৯০	.....	.....	.....	.....	৯০	৩০	৬০
৺ঈশ্বর নৃসিংহ ঠাকুর মালকাছারীর পূর্ব্ব ...	১০২৲	.....	.....	.....	.....	১০২	.....	১০২
৺ঈশ্বর গোবর্দ্ধনধারী ঠাকুর মোঃ তথা ...	৪৮৲	.....	.....	.....	.....	৪৮	.....	৪৮

ঈশ্বরী ভবানী ঠাকুরাণী	১৯২৲	.....	.....	.....	.....	১৯২	.....	১৯২
ঈশ্বর বাণেশ্বর শিব ঠাকুর	১১৫৷/০	৬৸৶০	১১৩৸৬৷৹	১৮০	৩৪৷৹	৪৫০৷৬৷৹	৬৬৷৹	৩৮৪৬৷৹
ঐ ঠাকুরের সদাব্রত	.....	.....	.....	.....	১৩২	১৩২	.....	১৩২
ঈশ্বর অর্দ্ধনারীশ্বর	৯০৲	.....	.....	.....	.....	৯০	৫৪	৩৬
ঈশ্বর দরিয়া বলরাম	৯০৲	.....	.....	.....	.....	৯০	পড়া যায় না	.....
ঈশ্বরী সিদ্ধেশ্বরী ঠাকুরাণী	১৮২৷৹	২৪০৲	৬৩৲	১৬৮	৩১৷৹	৬৮৫	৯১৸৹	৫৯৩৷৹
ঈশ্বরী ঘুর্ণেশ্বরী ঠাকুরাণী	৯১৷৹	১২০৲	১৩৲	৪৮	১৫	২৮৭৷৹	৩০৷০	২৫৬৸৹
ঈশ্বরী বৃক্ষোদ্ভবা ঠাকুরাণী	.....	৩০৲	.....	.....	.....	৩০	১৮	১২
ঐ	....	.....	.....	.....	.....	৩৬	৩৬	.....
ঈশ্বর ষণ্ডেশ্বর শিব ঠাকুর	১৮৲	.....	৯৩৷৶১৩৷৹	১০৪	২৮৷৶১৮৷৹	২৪৪৷/১১৮০	৮২৲৶১৮৷০	১৬১৸৶১৩৷৮
ঈশ্বর দামেশ্বর শিব ঠাকুর	৭৷৹	.....	১৪৷৶১৭	.....	৪৷৹	২৬৷৶-৭	পড়া যায় না	.....
তথায় ঈশ্বরী কালী ঠাকুরাণী	৭৷৹	৭৲	২১৸৮৷৹	.....	.....	৩৬৷/৮৷৹	.....	৩৬৷/৮৷০
ঈশ্বরী আনন্দময়ী কালী ঠাকুরাণী ...	১৩৩০৷৶০	১৩৩১৸৹	৩২৭৷৶০	৫৬৭	৩৭৷৹	৫৫৯৪৷/০	.....	৫৫৯৪৷/০
জের..... ...	৬৩৯৫	১৭৩৫৷৶০	৯৯৮৷/৫৷০	১৬৮৫	২৮৩৷৶১৮৷০	১১১৩৩৷৶৩৸০	৫৫৪৷৶১৮.০	১০৪৬২,৬৷

দেবতার নাম।	নিত্যপূজা	পূর্ব্বপূজা	বাজে তিথি যাত্রা পূজা।	সেহাবন্দি খরচা	বাজে খরচ।	একুন।	যাহা বাজে অপ্তের অভিপ্রায় হইয়াছে।	বাকি মোট।
জের ...	৬৩৯৫	১৭৩৫৷৶৫	৯৯৮৷/৫৷৷	১৬৮৫	৩৮৩৷৷৶৯৮৷	১১১৩৩৷৷৶৩৸	৫৫৪৷৷৶১৮৷	২০৪৬২৷৬৷৷০
ঈশ্বরী জয়তারা ও ঈশ্বরী অন্নপূর্ণা ও ঈশ্বরী চণ্ডী ঠাকুরাণী ও ঈশ্বরী পাট দেবতী	২২৩৫৷৷৶০	২৬৮৷৶০	৬১৩৷০	২৭৬	১	৩৩৯৪৷৷০	২৮৷০	৩৩১৬
ঈশ্বর মহাকাল শিব মোঃ ভবানীবাড়ী ...	১২১৷০	.....	.....	.....	.....	১২১৷০	৬১৷০	৬০
ঈশ্বর সিদ্ধনাথ শিব ঠাকুর	৩৬৫৲	৩৯৸৶০	৩০৶০	১৫৬	১০৷৷০	৬০১৷০	১২৩৸৶০	৪৭৭৷৷৶০
ঈশ্বর জগমোহন ঠাকুর	১৮২৷৷০	.....	৮৪৶০	১৫৬	.....	৪২২৷৷৶০	১৯২৷৷৶০	২৩০
ঈশ্বর ক্রোটশ্বর ঠাকুর	২৪	.....	.....	৬	৪	৩৪	.....	৩৪
ঈশ্বর বলরাম ঠাকুর ও চণ্ডী ঠাকুরাণী ...	২৭৩৸০	.....	১৫২	২৬৪	.....	৬৮৯৸০	.....	৬৮৯৸০
ঈশ্বর হিরণ্যগর্ভ শিব ঠাকুর	১৫০	.....	.....	৯০	.....	২৪০	৩৬	২০৪
ঈশ্বর গোস ইগপ্পের ঈশ্বরী কালী ...	১০৮	৩৬	.....	৯৬	.....	২৪০	.....	২৪০
ঈশ্বর জগন্নাথ ঠাকুর	৩৬	.....	.....	.....	.....	৩৬	.....	৩৬
ঈশ্বর রাধাবল্লভ ঠাকুর	৩০৬	.....	১৭৬৸০	১৫৬	.....	৬৩৮৸০	......	৬৩৮৸০

ঈশ্বর কৃষ্ণবলরাম ও লক্ষ্মীনারায়ণ ঠাকুর ...	১৮০	.....	৮৮	৪০	.....	৩০৮	.....	৩০৮
ঈশ্বর জলেশ্বর শিব ঠাকুর	১৬৷৷০	.....	.....	.....	.....	১৬৷৷০	.....	১৬৷৷০
ঈশ্বর হরিহর শিব ঠাকুর	১৮২৷৷০	....০০	৪০	১২৬	.....	৩৪৮৷৷০	৭৮	২৭০৷৷০
ঈশ্বরী কমতেশ্বরী ঠাকুরাণী	.....	৩১৫	.....	.....	.....	৩১৫	৩১৫	....০
ঈশ্বর যন্ত্র পূজা	.....	১৩০	.....	.....	.....	১৩০	.....	১৩০
বাণারসের ঈশ্বরী করুণাময়ী কালীর কোং...	৩৪৯২	.....	.....	৬৩৬	.....	৪১২৮	.....	৪১২৮
ঈশ্বর বৃন্দাবনকুঞ্জের ঈশ্বরীরাধা রমণ ঠাকুর কোং	৩৬০	.....	.....	.....	.....	৩৬০	.....	৩৬০
ঈশ্বর কামিক্ষা মোঃ পূজার খরচ কোং ...	৩০৷৷০	.....	.....	.....	.....	৩০৷৷০	.....	৩০৷৷০
তোরষা পীর সাহেব	৬০	.....	১১	.....	.....	৭১	.....	৭১
ধর্ম্মাধক্ষ্য ও তাহার সেরেস্তার আমলা মোলাজে মাসের বেতন বঃ বরাওর্দ্ধ	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	১৩২২৷৷০	৩৮৪	৯৩৮৷৷০
হরিয়েক দেবালয়ের পাহারার জন্য বরকন্দাজ ২১ জন ফি জন ৫ টাকা হিসাবে ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	১০০	.....	.....
মোট ...	১৪৫১৮৷৷/	২৫২৪৷৷/০	২১৯৩৷৷/৫৷৷০	৩৬৮৭	২৯৯৷৷/১৮৷০	২৪৬৮২৷৷/৩৷৷	১৭৭৩৷৷/৮৷	২২৬৯১৷৷/৬৷৷

দেবতার নাম।	পূজারির নাম।	ভোগরান্ধা ব্রাহ্মণের নাম।	যে স্থানে আছেন ও যাহার স্থাপিত।	কৈফিয়ৎ।
৺মদনমোহন ঠাকুর ...	দীননাথ ধর্ম্মাধ্যক্ষ তঃ গোঃ জীবেশ ও পুরন্দর শর্ম্মা	হরিকেশ, শ্রীমন্তদেব ও কালিনাথ শর্ম্মা	মহারাজা প্রাণনারায়ণ নিজ বেহার মদন.মাহন বাড়ী	ভোগরান্ধা প্রত্যেকে ৪ মাস করিয়া কার্য্য করে এবং পূজহরি ৬।৬ মাস কার্য্য করে।
৺রাধারমণ ঠাকুর ...	দীননাথ ধর্ম্মাধ্যক্ষের তঃ গোঃ পূর্ণধর ও সিদ্ধনাথ শর্ম্মা	পূর্ণধর ও সিদ্ধনাথ শর্ম্মা ...	হরেন্দ্রনারায়ণ মহারাজার মাতা মহারাণীর স্থাপিত মদনমোহন বাড়ী	প্রত্যেকে ৬।৬ মাস করিয়া পূজহরি ও ভোগ রান্ধার কার্য্য করে।
৺রাধাবিনোদ ঠাকুর ...	দুর্গেশ, কমলানন্দন, রুচিনাথ ও বৈদ্যনাথ শর্ম্মা	দুর্গেশ, কমলানন্দন, রুচিনাথ ও বৈদ্যনাথ শর্ম্মা	মহারাজা হরেন্দ্রনারায়ণ ভূপের মাতা বড় আইর স্বর্দ্দীবাড়ী অর্থাৎ অন্দরের নিকট	প্রত্যেকে ৩।৩ মাস করিয়া কর্ম্ম করে বড় আইর ফৌৎপরে এই ঠকুরের সেবা ডাঙ্গরআই দেবতী করিতেছেন।
৺মদনগোপাল ঠাকুর ...	সিদ্ধনাথ শর্ম্মা	সিদ্ধনাথ শর্ম্মা ...	ধৈর্য্যেন্দ্রনারায়ণ মহারাজার মাতা মহারাণী মদনমোহন বাড়ী	পূজহরি
৺দীনদয়াল ঠাকুর ...	পুরন্দর শর্ম্মা সাং খাগড়াবাড়ী কালিনাথ শর্ম্মা সাং টাকাগাছ	পুরন্দর শর্ম্মা খাগড়াবাড়ী, কালিনাথ শর্ম্মা টাকাগাছ	মহারাজা হরেন্দ্রনারায়ণ ভূপের ৺রাণী পত্নি আইর স্থাপিত মদনমোহন বাড়ী	প্রত্যেকে ৬।৬ মাস করিয়া কর্ম্ম করে ও তদনুসারে বেতন পায়।

ঈশ্বর নৃসিংহ ঠাকুর, শ্রীরামপুর টাকাগাছ	ওজারাম শর্ম্মা মোং টাকাগাছ ...	...	মহারাজা হরেন্দ্রনারায়ণ ভূপের স্থাপিত টাকাগাছ	নিত্য পূজার খরচ মধ্যে পূজহরি মাসিক ১ টাকা পায়।
ঈশ্বর নৃসিংহ ঠাকুর, মালকাছারীর পূর্ব্ব	উদ্ধব দাস রামাউৎ মোঃ বেহার...	উদ্ধবদাস রামাউৎ মোঃ বেহার...	হরেন্দ্রনারায়ণ মহারাজার স্থাপিত মোঃ নৃসিংহ বাড়ী	পূজারি ও ভোগ রান্ধার দরমাহা নাহি মোট টাকা তাহারা নিয়া সেবা ও পূজা করে।
ঈশ্বর গোবর্দ্ধনধারী ঠাকুর, মোঃ তথা	ঐ ...	ঐ ...	ঐ ...	ঐ ঐ
ঈশ্বরী ভবানী ঠাকুরাণী ...	বিশ্বনাথ গীর মোঃ বেহার ...	বিশ্বনাথ গীর মোঃ বেহার ...	ঐ মোঃ বাজার ভবানীবাড়ী ...	ইহার দেবত্র বিশ্বনাথ গীরের জেম্মায় তহশীল হয় দেবত্তরের উৎপন্ন দ্বারায় পূজায় অকুলান হওয়ায় সরকার হইতে এই টাকা দেওয়া হয়।
ঈশ্বর বাণেশ্বর শিব ঠাকুর...	বিষ্ণুপ্রসাদ শর্ম্মা সাং বাণেশ্বর জিতকান্ত শর্ম্মা, কালিনাথ দলাই	বিষ্ণুপ্রসাদ শর্ম্মা সাং বাণেশ্বর ...	বহুকালের স্থাপিত জন্য ইহার ঠিকানা পাওয়া যায় না মোঃ বাণেশ্বর	জিতকান্ত ও কালিনাথের জায়গীর জমি আছে বিষ্ণুপ্রসাদ মাসিক ও টাকা দরমাহা পায়।
ঐ ঠাকুরের সদাব্রত ...	...	...	...	বাণেশ্বর ধামের সন্নিকট দক্ষিণে এক অতীতথান্ন আছে তাহার খরচ সম্ভরণ সন্ন্যাসী নিয়া অতিতান খরচ দেয়।

দেবতার নাম।	পূজারির নাম।	ভোগরাকা ব্রাহ্মণের নাম।	যে স্থানে আছেন ও যাহার স্থাপিত	কৈফিয়ৎ।
ঈশ্বর অর্দ্ধনারীশ্বর ...	বিষ্ণুপ্রসাদ শর্ম্মা সাং বাণেশ্বর জিত. কান্ত শর্ম্মা, কালিনাথ দলাই	বিষ্ণুপ্রসাদ শর্ম্মা সাং বাণেশ্বর ...	বহুকালের স্থাপিত জনা ইহার ঠিকানা পাওয়া যায় না মোঃ বাণেশ্বর	বাণেশ্বরের এক সিংহাসনে আছেন পূজারী গয়রহ স্বতন্ত্র দরমাহা পায় না।
ঈশ্বর দরিয়াবলরাম ...	সোণাতন শর্ম্মা সাং নওখুলী ...	সোণাতন শর্ম্মা সাংনওখুলী ...	মহারাজা ধৈর্য্যেন্দ্রনারায়ণের স্থাপিত মোং চিলাখানা	ইহার বিলকুল দেবত্তর জগন্নাথ শর্ম্ম মেধীর তহশীলে আছে তদসেওয়ায় সরকার হইতে এই টাকা সন সন দেওয়া হয়।
ঈশ্বরী সিদ্ধেশ্বরী ঠাকুরাণী...	ভবদেব শর্ম্মা বড় দেউড়ি সাং সিদ্ধেশ্বরী	মহেশ্বর শর্ম্মা সাং সিদ্ধেশ্বরী ...	মহারাজা হরেন্দ্রনারায়ণ ভূপের স্থাপিত মোং সিদ্ধেশ্বরী	ভবদেব বড় দেউড়ি পূজহরী কার্য্য করিয়া থাকে। সরকারী কোন মহিষ তথাতে নাই মহিষালের টাকা দিয়া পর্ব্ব পূজার পাঁঠার দামে অকুলন হওয়ায় তন্মধ্যে দেওয়া হয়।
৺স্ত্রী ঘুর্ণেশ্বরী ঠাকুরাণী ...	ভবানাথ শর্ম্মা সাং চামটা ...	ভবানাথ শর্ম্মা সাং চামটা ...	ঐ মোং ঘুর্ণেশ্বরী	ইহার দলাই ভবদেব বড় দেউড়ী ভবানাথ শর্ম্মা উভয় কর্ম্মে এক দরমাহা পায়।

৺রী বৃ.ক্ষাম্ভবা ঠাকুরাণী...	ভবদেব শর্ম্মা সাং বড় দেউড়ি সাং সিদ্ধেশ্বরী	মহেশ্বর শর্ম্মা সাং সিদ্ধেশ্বরী ...	মহারাজা হরেন্দ্রনারায়ণ ভূপের আমলে মোং সিদ্ধেশ্বরী	এখানে কোন দরমাহা নাহি।
ঐ ...	শঙ্করনন্দন শর্ম্মা সাং খাগড়াবাড়ী...	...	মহারাজা শিবেন্দ্রনারায়ণ ভূপের স্থাপিত মোং শিবপ্রসাদ রাজমন্ত্রীর বাসার নিকট পাকরের গাছে	প্রতিমাসে শনিবারে মঙ্গলবারে পূজা হয় পূজহরির দরমাহ নাহি পূজার টাকা পূজারি মোট নিয়া সে পূজা করে।
৺র যণ্ডেশ্বর শিব ঠাকুর ...	রুক্মিণীকান্ত শর্ম্মা সাং কামরূপ ...	রুক্মিণীকান্ত শর্ম্মা সাং কামরূপ ...	নাজিরদেও সাহেবের স্থাপিত মোং নাক-কাটীগাছ	জগন্নাথ শর্ম্মা বড়দেউড়ী সে পূজার তদারক করে পূজারি দুই কর্ম্মে এক বেতন পায় ভাণ্ডার কায়েত ও সরদার দুই জন আছে ভাণ্ডার কায়েত খারিজের অভিপ্রায় হইয়াছে।
৺দামেশ্বর শিব ঠাকুর ...	রামচন্দ্র শর্ম্মা সাং বারকোদালিয়া...	রামচন্দ্র শর্ম্মা সাং বারকোদালিয়া...	ঐ মোং বারকোদালিয়া	ঐ
তথায় ৺রী কালী ঠাকুরাণী	ঐ	ঐ	ঐ ...	ঐ
৺রী আনন্দময়ী কালী ঠাকুরাণী	যজ্ঞনাথ ভট্টাচার্য্য সাং খাগড়াবাড়ী হরিকেশর্ম্মা সাং কামিণীরঘাট	রুচিনাথ শর্ম্মা সাং ময়নাগুড়ী দুর্গেশ শর্ম্মা সাং বাঘমারা	মহারাজা হরেন্দ্রনারায়ণ ভূপর স্থাপিত কালীবাড়ী মোং বেহার	ইহা সেওয়ায় তন্ত্রধারক চণ্ডি পাঠক ও সহস্রনাম পাঠের এক জন ও দেউড়ি ৬ জন ও জিলাপি তৈয়ারী এক জন আছে ইহারা প্রত্যেকেই কিঞ্চিৎ২ বেতন পায়।

দেবতার নাম।	পূজারির নাম।	ভোগরান্ধা ব্রাহ্মণের নাম।	যে স্থানে আছেন ও যাহার স্থাপিত।	কৈফিয়ৎ।
৺রী জয়তারা ও ৺রী অন্নপূর্ণা ও ৺রী চণ্ডী ঠাকুরাণী ও ৺রী পাট দেবতী	হরিকেশ শর্ম্মা সাং কামিণীরঘাট শ্রীমন্ত শর্ম্মা সাং ময়নাগুড়ী ...	কালীনাথ শর্ম্মা সাং টাকাগাছ শ্রীমন্ত শর্ম্মা সাং ময়নাগুড়ী ...	মোং বেহার	শ্রীমন্ত শর্ম্মা আলাহেদা দুই বেতন পায়।
৺র মহাকাল শিব মোঃ ভবানীবাড়ী	বিশ্বনাথগীর মোঃ বেহার ...	বিশ্বনাথগীর মোং বেহার ...	মোং বাজার ভবানীবাড়ী ...	ইহার কোন দেবত্তর নাহি সেবার মোট টাকা সেবাইত নেয় আলাহেদা। কোন বেতন নাহি বাজারে ভবানী বাড়ীতে এক সিংহাসনে আছেন।
৺র সিদ্ধনাথ শিব ঠাকুর...	শ্রীমন্তদেব শর্ম্মা সাং ময়নাগুড়ী ...	শ্রীমন্তদেব শর্ম্মা সাং ময়নাগুড়ী ...	মহারাজা শিবেন্দ্রনারায়ণ ভূপের স্থাপিত মোং ধলিয়াবাড়ী	শ্রীমন্ত শর্ম্মা তরফ রবিচন্দ্র শর্ম্মা সেবা পূজা করিয়া দুই কর্ম্মে এক বেতন পায়।
৺র জগমোহন ঠাকুর ...	সিদ্ধনাথ শর্ম্মা সাং টাকাগাছ অর্জ্জুন শর্ম্মা সাং কামিনীরঘাট তত্বেশ শর্ম্মা সাং খাগড়াবাড়ী	সিদ্ধনাথ শর্ম্মা সাং টাকাগাছ, অর্জ্জুন শর্ম্মা সাং কামিনীরঘাট তত্বেশ শর্ম্মা সাং খাগড়াবাড়ী।	দেওয়ান দেও সাহেবের স্থাপিত ...	ইহার খরচের টাকা সিদ্ধনাথ শর্ম্মা নেয় ও জনাই দুই কার্য্যে এক বেতন পায়।

৺র ক্রোটেশ্বর ঠাকুর ...	লাউ শর্ম্মা সাং কামরূপ ...	..	মহারাজা হরেন্দ্রনারায়ণ ভূপ বাহাদুরের স্থাপিত মোঃ উড়িয়ারপাথার আমবাড়ী	
৺র বলরাম ঠাকুর ও চণ্ডী ঠাকুরাণী	পশুপতি শর্ম্মা সাং কামরূপ দেবেন্দ্রনাথ শর্ম্মা সাং তথা।	পশুপতি শর্ম্মা সাং কামরূপ দেবেন্দ্রনাথ শর্ম্মা সাং তথা।	নাজির দেও সাহেবের স্থাপিত ঈশ্বর বলরাম মোঃ চোপগুড়ী। ঈশ্বরী চণ্ডী মোঃ চিথলিয়াদলবাড়ী	লক্ষ্মীনাথ শর্ম্মা একজন দলাই আছে তাহার জায়গীরজমী আছে পূজহরি ও ভোগরান্ধা দুই কার্য্যে এক বেতন পায়।
৺র হিরণ্গর্ভ শিব ঠাকুর...	...	...	মহারাজা হরেন্দ্রনারায়ণ স্থাপিত মোঃ সাগরদিঘির পশ্চিম পার।	
৺র গোসাইগঞ্জের ৺রী কালী	রামপ্রসাদ শর্ম্মা সাং ধুমপুর ...	রামপ্রসাদ শর্ম্মা সাং ধুমপুর ...	মহারাজা হরেন্দ্রনারায়ণ ভূপের স্থাপিত মোঃ গোশাইগঞ্জ।	ভৈরব নারায়ণ কুণ্ডর টাকা পায় তাহার কোন বেতন নাই তাহার তরফ একজন মোহরি আছে সে মাসে ২৷৷০ টাকা বেতন পায় পূজহরি ও ভোগরান্ধার এক বেতন।
৺র জগন্নাথ ঠাকুর ...	ভিকারি বৈরাগী ও রঘুনাথ বৈরাগী মোঃ বেহার।	...	ঐ মোঃ পাটকুড়া।	
ঈশ্বর রাধাবল্লভ ঠাকুর ...	কৃষ্ণনাথ শর্ম্মা সাং খাগড়াবাড়ী কালিনাথশর্ম্মা সাং টাকাগাছ	কৃষ্ণনাথ শর্ম্মা সাং খাগড়াবাড়ী কালিনাথ শর্ম্মা সাং টাকাগাছ	মহারাজা শিবেন্দ্রনারায়ণ ভূপ বাহাদুরের স্থাপিত মোঃ শুদ্ধিবাড়ী রাজঅন্দরের সন্নিদ্ধ।	মহারাজার ভাণ্ডার খানায় পূজার টাকা দেওয়া হয়, পূজহরি ও ভোগ রান্ধার এক বেতন তাহা বাহিরে ধর্ম্মাধ্যক্ষ দেয়।

দেবতার নাম।	পূজারির নাম।	ভোগরান্ধা ব্রাহ্মণের নাম।	যে স্থানে আছেন ও যাহার স্থাপিত।	কৈফিয়ৎ।
ঈশ্বর কৃষ্ণবলরাম ও লক্ষ্মী-নারায়ণ ঠাকুর	হরিকেশ শর্ম্মা সাং কামিনীরঘাট...	হরিকেশ শর্ম্মা সাং কামিনীরঘাট।	মহারাজা হরেন্দ্রনারায়ণ ভূপের স্থাপিত মোঃ শুক্লিবাড়ী রাজঅন্দরের সন্নিদ্ধ	পূজহরি ভেগরান্ধার দরমাহা নাহি।
ঈশ্বর জগেশ্বর শিব ঠাকুর ...	... ...	... ...	ঐ ঐ উড়িয়ারপাথার আমবাড়ী।	কালিনাথ শর্ম্মা টাকা নিয়া সেই সেবা পূজা করে।
ঈশ্বর হরিহর শিব ঠাকুর...	বিজয়নাথ শর্ম্মা সাং কামরূপ চন্দ্রদত্ত শর্ম্মা সাং তথা।	বিজয়নাথ শর্ম্মা সাং কামরূপ, চন্দ্র-দত্ত শর্ম্মা সাং তথা।	মহারাজা ধৈর্য্যেন্দ্রনারায়ণ ভূপের আমলে মোঃ মধুপুরের ধাম।	কালিনাথ শর্ম্মা দলাই মাসিক ৪ টাকা বেতন পায় এবং পূজহরি ভোগ রান্ধার এক বেতন কালিনাথ মোট টাকা পায়।
ঈশ্বরী কামতেশ্বরী ঠাকুরাণী	ভবাণীপ্রসাদ শর্ম্মা বড় দেউড়ী গোসানীমাড়াই	ভবাণীপ্রসাদ শর্ম্মা বড় দেউড়ি গোসানীমাড়াই	রাজা প্রাণনারায়ণের আমলে মোঃ গোসানিমাড়ই।	এই টাকা দেবত্তরে বরাত দিয়া সর-কারে খারিজের অভিপ্রায় হইয়াছে
ঈশ্বর যন্ত্র পূজা ...	কালিনাথ শর্ম্মা সাং কামিনীরঘাট	... ...	মহারাজা হরেন্দ্রনারায়ণ ভূপের আমলে মোঃ বেহার তারাবাড়ী।	কালীনাথ টাকা লইয়া সেবা ও পূজা করে ইহার কোন দেবত্তর নাই।
বাণারসের ঈশ্বরী করুণাময়ী কালীর কোং	... ...	... ...	মহারাজা শিবেন্দ্রনারায়ণ ভূপ বাহাদুরের স্থাপিত, মোঃ বাণারস।	

ঈশ্বর বৃন্দাবনকুঞ্জের ঈশ্বর রাধারমণ ঠাকুর কোং	...	...	...	...	মহারাজা হরেন্দ্রনারায়ণ ভূপের মাতা দেও আইর স্থাপিত মোঃ বৃন্দাবন।	
ঈশ্বর কামিক্ষা মোঃ পূজার খরচ কোং	...	...	...	...	মহারাজা হরেন্দ্রনারায়ণ ভূপের আমলে মোঃ কামিক্ষা।	বৎসর অন্তে কেবল শরৎকালী পূজার সময় পাঠান হয়।
তোরষাপীর সাহেব ...	...	...	...	...	মহারাজা হরেন্দ্রনারায়ণ ভূপের আমলে মোঃ গুদাম।	রমজান ফকির টাকা নেয় ইহার পীড়-পান জমী আছে তাহা এ ফকির তহশীল করে।

ERRATA.

Page	Line	For	Read
4	11	ordinary	ordinarily
6	28	Serajguni	Serajgunj
11	28	flown	flowed
14	20	charge	change
18	42	Girdari	Gidari
19	42	Kumali	Kumlai
26	17	Gonsaigunj	Gosaingunj
49	34	north and	north-east
55	43 and 44	Landsdowne	Lansdowne
60	26	curved	carved
„	39	side	site
65	32	the Fulbari	Fulbari
71	25	necessities	necessaries
77	34	ocomplished	accomplished
84	41	name	the name
95	11	had	have
„	27	artists	artisans
101	36	little	a little
106	margin 14	ten	fourteen
118	2	for	of
126	27	adoptation	adoption
127	1	with	of
131	39	omit 'of' after 'thrashing'	
150	26	by	with
155	6	good a	a good
„	27 and margin 7	artists	artisans
157	10	Digging	The digging
171	26	Soium	Daium
183	43	called	call
225	24	Bhaghabti	Bhagabati
239	24	Vihsva Sinha	Visva Sinha
250	3	at	to
„	18 and 43	Goolland	Goodlad
255	6	at	to
256	32	Mint	Minto
261	24 and 27	Harendra Narayan	Hemendra Narayan
276	41	Ram Chandra	Kali Chandra
289	19	Mr. J. G.	Mr. G. J.
293	7	Gajendra darayan	Gajendra Narayan
303	13	ointers	in his

326	10	transected	trans-sected
333	3	marbelling	marbling
337	38	passed	past
342	21	1893	1889
355	14 and 15	records of rig'ht	record of rights
362	32	66,000	71,000
„	40	2,77,462	2,88,418
363	29	19899-100	1899-1900
379	11	1884-65	1884-85
380	19	winded	wound
384	5	laid	lain
390	4	have	has
395	7	conception	inception
400	3	1899	1889
406	25	1899-190	1899-1900
„	„	come	came
407	6	1899-9100	1899-1900
417	23	issue	issues
421	margin 2	sports	sport
422	20	on	of
434	23	on	in
„	24	Bengal	British
435	10 and 15	despatch	despatches
437	35	award	express
439	2	the annual shoot	an annual shoot
„	9	distribution	presentation
„	16	omit 'the'	
445	1	twelvth	twelfth
455	15	Rs. 68,824	about Rs. 71,000
456	28	omit 'the increase therefore came';	
459	8	O'Donael	O'Donel
468	8	a	the
472	30	reverse	reserve
479	5	made of up	made up of
531	4	Subdivisions	Parganas
536	13	was to	was
547	30	Boknadhara	Boknadhara
549	12	rate of per Bigha	rate per Bigha
677	34	from	in

Note.—There are some other press mistakes which have not been included in the errata.

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